

Hafa Adai!

www.saipantribune.com

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIV, Issue No. 40

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2014

75¢

As Gonno fire was a double homicide

Investigators established that arson was involved

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Investigators now believe there was foul play behind Sunday's fire at a house in As Gonno where the bodies of a Chinese couple were found completely charred in their bedroom.

Department of Public Safety Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the case has been classified as a double homicide.

NMI Crime Stoppers Program coordinator

Jason Tarkong disclosed yesterday that further investigation and crime scene processing determined that arson was involved.

As this developed, the victims' family members suspect that robbery was the motive and that possibly more than two people were behind the arson and killing.

Tarkong said that Guo Huang Xu, 40, male, had signs of blunt trauma to the head, while the injuries of Qing Xiu Zheng, 38, female, were still unknown.

Tarkong said both bodies were charred as a result of the fire.

Tarkong said that DPS received an emergency call on Sunday at 10:58pm, about a fire in As Gonno. Responders came upon a tin house that was completely engulfed in flames. Firefighters

See **HOMICIDE** on Page 4

Qing Shan Zheng looks at what was left of his sister Qing Xiu Zheng's house in As Gonno that was razed to the ground by fire on Sunday night. The bodies of Qing Xiu Zheng and her husband, Guo Huang Hu, were discovered completely charred in their bedroom as a result of the blaze that investigators found was intentionally set off. The couple's pickup truck was also burned.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



Guo Huang Hu and Qing Xiu Zheng pose with their two children at Bird Island Lookout in Marpi in this file photo taken last year. The bodies of Hu and Zheng were discovered charred after a fire at their house in As Gonno Sunday night.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GOT A **NEWS TIP?**

TEL: 235-6397
235-2440

FAX: 235-3740

EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Should large businesses be required to hook up to the CUC grid?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

INSIDE

TRAVELOGUE



Part 4 of 88 fun things to see and do in Guam. > **PAGE 13**

ASIA



Children are the latest victims of the continuing violence in Thailand. > **PAGE 18**

Inos: Int'l extradition is via feds

» **Acting House speaker says governor 'should not wash hands'**

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that the process for international extradition is a function of the federal government and not the local government, amid the pre-filing of a House resolution asking him to "take the necessary actions for the immediate extradition of former governor Benigno R. Fitial" to face criminal charges against him related to corruption.



Inos

The resolution's main author, acting House speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan), said that Inos "should not wash his hands" by not initiating the process.

"The case against the former governor is with the CNMI courts, not the federal courts. As governor of the CNMI, he must initiate the process and request the FBI or the federal government for assistance," Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune*.

Inos, while still in Washington, D.C. for a series of meetings, said yesterday in a statement that "some local lawmakers are erroneously implying" that the process

See **INOS** on Page 4

Spike in prices of Rota foods, other goods

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With barges' entry to Rota West Harbor postponed anew yesterday due to bad sea conditions, prices of some basic commodities on Rota have gone up by 10 percent to almost 50 percent in the last few weeks since businesses have started bringing in goods via a much costlier means, air transportation. A 50-lb. sack of rice in one major Rota store, for example, has gone up from \$37 to \$55, a 49-percent increase.

But Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola and businesses interviewed yesterday said the spike in prices is only "temporary" or only until Rota starts receiving the shipments of goods via barges.

Rota last received sea shipment in November because bad weather conditions have since made it dangerous for barges to enter West Harbor.

Acting governor Jude U. Hofschneider opened East Harbor on Saturday for the 30-day duration of the Feb. 14 state of emergency declaration for Rota. But owners of sea vessels are still working with local and federal agencies to be able to use East Harbor, officials said yesterday.

"We know that our customers understand that because we are bringing some of the goods we sell via air now, the freight cost is much more expensive and that means they are going to see price increases. It is 50 cents per pound

See **SPIKE** on Page 4

» **Temporary hike of 10 pct. to 50 pct. on some items**

Feds: Head Start program will remain with PSS. PAGE 2
17-month-old boy drowns in swimming pool. PAGE 3

Local

Feds: Head Start program will remain with PSS

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Almost a year after the federal government did an extensive check and assessment on how the federally funded Head Start program is being managed in the Commonwealth, a final decision yesterday gave the CNMI State Board of Education another five years to handle and administer the program on the islands.

An elated Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan said this was the good news that greeted Public School System personnel yesterday.

Sablan said the decision is a testament to the continued teamwork and collaboration demonstrated by the program stakeholders—leadership, staff, parents, and the community. The outcome, she said, is proof of the system's effective and efficient operation of its programs.

Sablan praised Head Start officials and personnel for a "great job" done for Commonwealth schoolchildren.

PSS Head Start is headed by director Melissa Palacios.

If the review outcome had been unsatisfactorily, the program could have been stopped in

the CNMI or PSS may have lost the program to another agency. The latest decision means that PSS remains the grantee agency for the Head Start program for another five years.

The notice was addressed to BOE chair Herman T. Guerrero.

Head Start is a federal program that promotes the school readiness of children from low-income families with ages birth to 5.

The Office of Head Start within the Administration of Children and Families of the Department of Health and Human Services awards grants to provide comprehensive services to specific communities such as

the CNMI.

A team from the DHHS Office in Region 9 made its tri-annual review of the Head Start program in the CNMI in March 2013. In the team's initial assessment, it identified only two minor deficiencies that were later rectified within the 120-day time frame set after receipt of the findings. The deficiencies dealt with federal requirements on record-keeping and reporting.

In the same findings, the team highlighted the many areas of strength found in the program. Among these is the maintenance of a teaching staff roster of 23 percent male. PSS Head

Start has seven male teachers, which according to the feds, is a positive influence on the program. It was noted that one of the positive results of having a large number of male teachers was a dramatic increase in fatherhood involvement.

Sequestration lifted

Sablan disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the CNMI's Head Start program will continue to receive the same funding amount it got in the past. Each year, the Head Start program is mandated to serve 462 children and has an annual budget of \$1.8 million, of which over \$300,000 is from the local side.

Last fiscal year, the national government's "budget seques-

tration" resulted in the loss of some \$90,000 for the Head Start program.

Sablan disclosed that the feds have lifted the sequestration and would restore back the amount it reduced last year.

According to her, PSS and the BOE are constantly communicating with Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) on how the Head Start funding for the CNMI can be increased. "We're pushing for that and hopefully, through the help of Congressman Kilili, our allocation would go up," she said.

Sablan vowed that PSS will continue to enhance and maintain the quality of service offered by the Head Start program on three islands.

SHEFA board to update priority field of study's course listing

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Courses listed on the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance's priority field of study will soon be revised after members of the SHEFA board agreed to revisit the program.

Board chair Josephine Sablan disclosed that she is now working on a "new list" for the priority field of study program and sought other board members' input and suggestions.

"The [current] listing is very general and we need to enhance it. This is why I keep bringing this issue to the board," according to Sablan, who referred the matter to the policy and procedures committee for further deliberation.

The potential changes will be incorporated in the revisions on the agency's bylaws, which is also up for board review.

SHEFA administrator Merissa S. Rasa said the proposed revised bylaws is on its third draft and would be up for board approval at their next meeting.

Board member John Pialur said that revisiting the list is also in line with SHEFA's desire to help students of the Northern Marianas Trade Institute who, under the current rules and regulation, are excluded from receiving SHEFA grants.

The priority field of study is among the three scholarship programs administered by SHEFA. The other two are grant in aid and incentive award.

Saipan Tribune learned that the priority field of study is not only an incentive for students to maintain a high grade point average, but is also used to encourage SHEFA scholars to enter into a specialty area of employment that is urgently needed and in high demand on Saipan. Freshmen and sophomores are not eligible for this award.

Though the grade point average requirement is maintained at a minimum of 2.5, the priority of field study scholar must formally declare a major in accordance with the range of studies listed in SHEFA regulations.

Courses on the list of priority field of study are accounting; nursing; teaching with specialized special education/early childhood education/library science/counseling/bilingual education; business management and administration. Also included are hospitality and information technology with emphasis on anthropology/sociology for teaching; biology (science) for teaching; criminal justice leading to forensic science; lab technology; psychology other than leading to counseling; human resources development/personal management; social worker.

It also includes mathematics for teaching; engineering/architect; medical and allied fields including psychiatry; environmental studies/conservation (e.g., natural resources, volcanology, marine biology, fish and wildlife, meteorology and archeology); and computer graphics, including technical or specialized trades such as journalism, management information, computer programming and other fields of study sanctioned by the board.

Like the grant-in-aid, the priority field of study recipient must enroll fulltime and complete within a given term a minimum course load of 12 credits for undergraduates and 9 credits for graduate and advance students.

Based on the SHEFA's annual report in 2012, a big portion of the SHEFA scholars are taking or have taken social sciences and fine arts, representing 35 percent of students. These programs include behavioral science, sociology, psychology, political science, communications, art, and law.

Twenty-six percent have taken or are taking education course; 12 percent choose business courses; 15 percent choose medical and allied fields including biology, nursing, physical therapy, and dentistry. Accounting only yielded 6 percent while 5 percent pursue computer science and information technology courses.

DRIVE AWAY A WINNER!

JUST GAS, SCRATCH & WIN INSTANTLY

With your Lucky 7 Card, fill up with 5 gallons in gas and get a scratch card to win fun and exciting prizes! Every card is sure to win. Gas up now and win!

Prizes include: iPad minis, Samsung Galaxy Tablets, cell phones, headsets, day guest passes to PIC, Joeten grocery certificates, pizzas from Revolving Restaurant 360, gas, Lucky 7 points, and much more!

Rules apply. See store for details. Prizes not exactly as shown. While supplies last.

17-month-old boy drowns in swimming pool

A 17-month old boy drowned in the swimming pool of his home in Pagago last Thursday, the Department of Public Safety disclosed yesterday.

DPS police spokesman Travis Hurst said that due to the nature of the incident, the victim and the family's identity will not be released at this time.

Hurst said the Division of Youth Services is currently investigating the case.

DPS received a 911 call about a drowning at a residential pool on Thursday at 2:52pm.

DPS Fire medics responded and attempted to resuscitate the boy but were unsuccessful. The victim was brought to the Commonwealth Health Center where he was pronounced dead.

Hurst said the boy was under the supervision of his mother when the incident happened. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



IN THE RUNNING

Gubernatorial candidate Heinz Sablan Hofschneider and his running mate, Rep. Ray Naraja Yumul (Ind-Saipan), are joined by Hofschneider's wife Susana and Yumul's wife Maritess Monday morning in the Hofschneider family compound in Upper Gualo Rai.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

New law allows tax offsets, credits for unpaid government judgments

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Senate bill that became law on Sunday without the acting governor's signature allows the governor to negotiate a settlement and resolution of judgments against the CNMI government, including offsets and credits on any tax obligation by the claimants or members of their immediate family.

Acting governor Jude U. Hofschneider, meanwhile, vetoed a local bill appropriating and re-appropriating over \$180,000 in developers infrastructure tax for a host of Saipan projects because of "deficiencies" in the legislation.

Senate vice president Victor Hocog's (R-Rota) Senate Bill 18-26 became Public Law 18-37 on Feb. 23, after the 40-day period lapsed without the governor's action.

The Judgment Settlement Act of 2013, introduced in June 2013, was co-sponsored by Sens. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), Joaquin Borja (Ind-Tinian), Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan), and Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota).

Under the new law, the governor is authorized and empowered to negotiate a settlement and payment of judgments entered against the government.

"Such settlement may include offsets and credits on any tax obligation or other obligations of the claimants or members of their immediate family or third parties who may have such obligations and payments of cash from the Commonwealth General Fund or other funds set aside for payments of judgments, including all other settlement methods, authorized by law, other than cash as agreed by the parties," P.L. 18-37 says.

The government has at least \$27 million in unpaid judgments. The oldest among at least 17 existing judgment is over 10 years old and continues

■ Bill became law without acting governor's signature

■ Saipan local appropriations bill vetoed

to accrue interest.

The lowest judgment is \$34,250, while the highest is over \$5.9 million. Some judgments do not accrue interest, while others do. In at least one case, the accrued interest has already surpassed the principle judgment, doubling the government's debt in that case.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), during earlier deliberations on the bill, said the measure gives away "too much power to the governor and may become more political to benefit certain individuals, groups, or business rather than actually assisting in judgments." He said the governor already has the power to negotiate.

An identical bill was passed in 2011 but then governor Benigno R. Fitial vetoed it, noting that claimants would be allowed to circumvent the legislative appropriation power "while impacting the General Fund by offsetting and crediting tax obligations."

Vetoed bill

In other news, the acting governor vetoed on Feb. 18 House floor leader Ralph Demapan's (Cov-Saipan) House Local Bill 18-19, House Draft 1, appropriating and re-appropriating a total of over \$180,000 in developers infrastructure tax because of "deficiencies" that needed to be addressed.

Hofschneider, in his two-page veto message, said he recognizes the need to appropriate and re-appropriate funds on Saipan but "the deficiencies identified herein must be addressed before HLB 18-19 is enacted into law."

Section 2 of the bill, for example, proposes to appropriate

\$19,000 from the developers infrastructure tax fund for "various infrastructure improvement projects" in Precinct II. The acting governor said the phrase "various projects" lacks the specificity that is required by law.

The acting governor said it is essential for the Legislature to identify specific infrastructure

improvement projects in order to assist the expenditure authority in clearly directing funds to where the funding is needed.

"Otherwise, this bill may create a risk for funding to be used for purposes other than what is intended by law, and the necessity for more funding to complete those same projects," Hofschneider told Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation chair Rep. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) and House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan).

The acting governor noted almost similar concerns in other sections of the bill.

AYURVEDIC MASSAGE
\$15.00 1 hour of full body massage
Call for appointment
Promo is only valid for two (2) or more customers at a time.
Open Daily from 11am to 11pm • Tel: 233-2249
2nd Floor, Winchell's Bldg., Garapan

BW CAR RENTAL
Starting at \$40/day • \$600/month
FREE Pick up and Drop off Service (Airport and Hotel)
1-670-287-2727
Mon-Sun 9AM-9PM
Located in Garapan, near Century Insurance Bldg.
WE BUY USED CARS

PHI Pharmacy Diabetes Shoppe[®] GOOD NEIGHBOR PHARMACY[®]
Your Partner In Diabetes Care

February Sale
February 10th-28th, 2014 at both locations!

35% OFF

SPORTS NUTRITIONAL PRODUCTS & VITAMINS

25% Off All OTC items **50%-75% Off** Selected items

MEDICAID PATIENTS ARE WELCOME
Durable Medical Equipment • Hospital Supplies • Diabetes Product

Two Convenient Locations

Navy Hill (CHC) Tel. (670) 323-5000/01 • Fax (670) 323-5011
Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm | Sat & Sun: 8am-4pm

Dandan (Joeten) Tel. (670) 235-6170/74 • Fax (670) 235-6180
Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm | Sat: 8am-4pm

PHI Pharmacy...the pharmacy you can trust!

LAOLAO BAY GOLF & RESORT

Driving Range & Sauna Membership

(Good for 30 days)

Main Membership: \$200.00
Immediate Family Membership: 150.00

Main Membership Benefit Includes:

- * Unlimited Range Balls
- * Unlimited Use of Sauna
- * Avail of a \$40 + tax Hotel Room Voucher
 - Meal not included
 - Maximum of 2 persons
 - Within the validity of the membership
 - Transferable
- * Discount Vouchers for Breakfast/Lunch (1) and Dinner (1)
 - 25% discount - 1 person
 - 50% discount - 2 persons
 - 33% discount - 3 persons
 - 25% discount - 4 to 8 persons
 - Alcoholic beverage are not discounted
 - Transferable
- * Two Pool Pass (transferable)

Immediate Family Membership Benefit Includes:

- * Unlimited Range Balls
- * Unlimited Use of Sauna

SPECIAL OFFER

Register from March 1 to 31, 2014 to avail of the following:

- * Discounted Main Membership \$150.00
- * Discounted Immediate Family Membership \$100.00
- * Free 1 Round of Golf for each member (valid until April 30, 2014)

Some condition will be applied. CNMI RESIDENT ONLY.
For more information, please call us at 236-8888



The Premier Golf Destination in the Pacific.

HOMICIDE

From Page 1

put out the blaze within minutes and discovered the victims' remains.

Tarkong said a family member of one of the victims told police that he received a phone call from victim Xu, who asked for him to come over to their house right away. About four minutes later, the family member arrived at the house and found the tin house on fire.

"This case is actively being investigated pending an autopsy," Tarkong said.

Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help for information leading to an arrest in this case.

Saipan Tribune learned that the persons who first responded

to the house were Qing Shan Zheng, 45, his wife, and their 21-year-old son. The three are farmers who live in a farm next to the victims' farm.

Qing Shan Zheng is a brother of female victim Qing Xiu Zheng. He received the phone call from his brother-in-law Xu on Sunday at about 10:38pm.

According to Qing Shan Zheng, they were already sleeping when he received the call from his brother-in-law who asked him to come to their house immediately.

Qing Shan Zheng said he heard his sister crying and the sound of fire in the background. The phone signal was then cut.

Qing Shan Zheng, his wife, and their 21-year-old son boarded their pickup truck and immediately proceeded to

the victims' house, located on Magisa Drive corner Empanada Lane.

Upon the three's arrival, they found the house already engulfed in flames. They tried to douse the fire with water but the fire was already too big. One of them then called 911.

Firefighters allegedly arrived after about 20 minutes.

Qing Shan Zheng and his other sister, Qing Ying Zheng, 43, told *Saipan Tribune* that they believe there were more than two suspects and were possibly armed because their brother-in-law was strong and could engage them in a fistfight.

Qing Shan Zheng also disclosed that when they arrived, the bedroom door was already open. He said they also saw fire on the concrete floor at the en-

trance of the bedroom, bolstering their suspicion that the suspects poured gas on the house.

Qing Shan Zheng and his sister Qing Ying Zheng said they are not aware of any enemies of the couple, who according to them, were good and hardworking farmers and never engaged in gambling or other illegal activities.

"They're nice guys. They were never arrested," said the sister, who is manager of a store in Koblerville.

The couple's two children—ages 5 and 13—are currently in Fujian Province, China. The 5-year-old was born in the CNMI, while the other was born in China.

The sister said their parents and the couple's two children and the father of the male vic-

tim will be flying in from China. She said the bodies will be taken to China for burial.

The couple had been farming in a leased property in As Gonno for more than two years now. They had been supplying vegetables at hotels and other

Democratic Party success in Agat

GUAM—The Democratic Party of Guam held the first of its "Listening Tour" village meetings Sunday night. The meeting was held at the residence of Tony and Doris Quichocho, in the village of Agat. Democratic chair Sen. Rory Respicio and vice chair Dr. Nerissa Underwood congratulated the Agat organization, and the entire Democratic Party of Guam for a dynamic and successful meeting.

Respicio said: "It was great to see representatives from all political factions, including disaffected Republicans and people who consider themselves to be independent voters. The Democratic Party of Guam continues to display evidence that our party is united, and that we have also made plenty of room for disaffected Republicans and independent voters."

Underwood said: "People were engaged and openly aired their concerns about the rising cost of living, the crime epidemic, the concern about this consolidation of power occurring throughout our island, and the importance of supporting

stores on the island.

Qing Ying Zheng said the couple first went to Tinian where they worked as farmers in 2004. In 2008 the couple transferred to Saipan where they worked as farmers in Finasisu, As Lito, and finally in As Gonno.

public education."

"The issues brought up Sunday night varied from speaker to speaker, but each person expressed the need for us to provide a clear alternative to the current administration. They are telling us that our island needs real leaders, who will ensure that policies and programs benefit all Guamanians, and not just a select few," added Respicio.

Underwood concluded: "In the coming weeks, the Democratic party will continue these meetings throughout the island's villages. We are committed to empowering people, and engaging them in a grassroots process that identifies a strong unified gubernatorial team to return our government back to our people, retains our Democratic majority in the Guam Legislature, and keeps Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo in Congress. We are listening to people tell us how our island has really changed over the last three years, and are well aware that there is this hunger for change in the leadership at Adelup." (PR)



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Qing Shan Zheng points to the location of bedroom where the bodies of his sister, Qing Xiu Zheng, and her husband, Guo Huang Hu, were found completely charred as a result of Sunday night's fire at the couples' house in As Gonno. Police established that arson was involved and classified the case as double homicide.

INOS

From Page 1

for international extradition is a function of the local government.

"It's important to fully understand the process to ensure that we don't mislead people," the governor said.

Inos said information on the proper procedures for international extradition into the United States or its territories is a matter of public record that is also available online.

"And quite frankly, a joint resolution is not on the list of steps to be taken," he said.

Inos said that under the U.S. Constitution, foreign countries may not have official treaty relations with sub-national units such as individual states or territories. Instead, they may have treaty relations only with the federal government, he said.

As a result, a state or territory that wishes to prosecute an individual located in a foreign country must direct its extradition request through the federal government, which will negotiate the extradition with the foreign country, Inos said.

"The special prosecutor, not

the governor, has to go through the federal Department of Justice, who then forwards it to the Department of State, who then makes a formal request to the Government of the Philippines," Inos said. "It's an entirely different process and not as easy as dealing with extraditions within the United States."

Fitial is believed to be in his wife's hometown of Gapan in Nueva Ecija, a Philippine province north of Manila.

Still, Dela Cruz said that Inos cannot sit idle.

"He cannot wash his hands, that this is not before him. I don't believe he means what he says. He has the authority to request the federal government and no one else. And this is not about accusing the former governor, but about what he's been charged by the CNMI Superior Court. He [Fitial] cannot be tried until Governor Inos make the request for extradition. He should know that," Dela Cruz added.

Dela Cruz, along with Reps. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), Mario Taitano (Ind-Saipan), Antonio Benavente (Ind-Saipan), Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan), John Paul Sablan (Cov-Saipan), and Edmund Villagomez (Cov-

Saipan), prefiled House Resolution 18-5 on Monday. Others who supported Fitial's impeachment said they will vote "yes" to the resolution once it's up for adoption.

The resolution says Inos "should not stand idle or do nothing while Fitial attempts to remain above the law."

Inos, in clarifying the matter, said in the case of international extraditions, the foreign government, if it decides to honor the extradition request, is responsible for taking the person into custody and turning him or her over to U.S. authorities.

"As you can see, there is a process in place to get this done and it is a function of the special prosecutor and the federal government. Before lawmakers falsely accuse a governor of not doing anything, they should do their research first," he said.

Inos said the resolution should direct the special prosecutor, not the governor, to initiate the necessary steps for extradition.

"I agree that no one is above the law," Inos said. "That is why I cannot negotiate with the Philippine government. I must respect the Constitution and allow the special prosecutor and the

feds to do their job. I invite our Legislature to extend the same respect to these hardworking law enforcement authorities."

Dela Cruz said the resolution will be acted on in next week's House session.

The resolution says former attorney general Edward Buckingham, during his trial, testified in detail that Fitial played a significant and personal role in the criminal offenses that Buckingham was found guilty of committing by testifying under oath and under penalty of perjury that Fitial personally ordered and arranged for the illegal police escort to the airport and the illegal attempts to thwart service of process.

It's been a little over a year since Fitial resigned from office, after being impeached by the 18th House of Representatives for 18 articles of corruption, felony, and neglect of duty. He stepped down days before the start of his impeachment trial at the Senate.

Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman issued a warrant of arrest for Fitial on March 6, 2013, in connection with the criminal case against Buckingham, who was convicted and sentenced last week.

SPIKE

From Page 1

to bring items via air," Lucky Store accountant Angel Pagalpalan told *Saipan Tribune*.

The items are brought in from Saipan and Guam.

She said Lucky Store, one of the major retailers on Rota, still has some other basic commodities on its shelves but some of them are being sold at a higher price because of added freight cost.

Pagalpalan said a 50-lb. sack of rice that used to retail for \$37 now costs \$55 because of the 50-cent per pound air freight cost.

"\$25 of that \$55 is only for freight cost. The other items, we tried to maintain the old prices if we can but the others, we really have to pass on to customers because they are expensive to bring in," she added.

Some other items in their store whose prices have gone up include cooking oil, sugar, and milk.

At Harvest Market in Songsong, also a major retailer on Rota, a 1-quart milk that used to sell for \$2.99 now costs \$4.05 because of the air freight rate, said Harvest Market purchaser Esperanza Castro.

Castro also cited as an example a 5-lb. flour that used to retail for \$5.99 and has now gone up to \$7.99.

"We got an email Monday night that the Tuesday schedule for the barge to come in is

postponed again because of the weather. They are looking at Saturday again but that's still not for sure," Castro said.

Harvest Market, however, still has some basic commodities in stock from last year so they haven't changed prices such as rice.

At Anne's Convenient Store, a store employee said yesterday that they have already run out of rice, butane gas, and cooking oil, among other items, as early as January.

The Rota mayor said the island is nearing the point wherein residents will be asked to boil their water for health reasons as the chlorine supply used for water treatment "is low." He is hoping that chlorine supply can already reach Rota before it gets to that point.

Mendiola said Rota has also run out of propane gas, which would make it harder to boil water if needed, unless residents use electric stove or firewood.

"There would be more problems, health and safety problems, if the situation does not change," he added.

The acting governor said he's receiving regular updates on what's happening on Rota, including the low supply of chlorine for water treatment and liquefied petroleum gas or LPG.

Besides opening East Harbor on Saturday, the acting governor also waived port fees to all vessels entering Rota to deliver essential goods to the island during this time of shortage of some necessary commodities.

32 applicants but CFO post remains unfilled at hospital

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It's been almost two years since the chief financial officer position at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. became vacant but efforts to hire a qualified individual remains unsuccessful.

Interim corporation CEO Esther Muña confirmed yes-

terday that nobody has been permanently appointed to the position yet.

Muña disclosed that they received 32 applications so far for the CFO position, several from off-island.

The corporation lost its CFO in 2012 after Alvaro Santos'

contract expired. Since then, Cora Ada has been serving the position in an acting capacity.

Based on the job announcement made available to both local and off-island

applicants, the corporation proposes a two-year contract with a salary offer ranging from \$100,000 to \$150,000 per annum. The applicant should have at least a master's degree in business administration and five years of experience in health-care finances.

A CFO reports to the CEO and has direct responsibility for receipt of all revenues and payment of funds. The interim CEO, for now, is paid \$96,000 per annum.

CHCC board chair Joaquin Torres disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the CFO position is among the key posts that the board wants filled this year. The update on recruitment, he said, will be among the items to be discussed on Thursday.

Torres said the delay in the appointment of a hospital CFO was the result of an earlier decision to have the Inos administration handle the recruitment of both CEO and CFO for the corporation.

The governor earlier pledged to pay for the first year salary

of both positions in consideration of the CHCC's financial constraints. This recruitment effort, however, failed to bring aboard any candidate because of the "high salary demand" of off-island candidates.

"At this time, we're not yet sure if the governor is still committed to shouldering the salary of the CFO because we haven't had a meeting with him on this issue. But the CHCC board remains firm in our goal to hire a permanent

CFO even if it means paying for his or her salary," said Torres yesterday.

When asked if the corporation can afford to offer an annual salary of up to \$150,000 for the CFO, Torres said the amount may be "too stiff a price" for the corporation.

"But I am pretty sure that we can bring in a qualified CFO for \$100,000 or less," he said, admitting that some board members are already impatient over the snail's pace

in hiring a CFO.

In December, Torres disclosed that there were 30 applicants for the positions and that many meet the statutory requirements of the job.

Besides the CFO, another key vacant position is the nursing director, which was vacated by Leticia Reyes in January.

Muña told *Saipan Tribune* that there's so far one application received for the post and recruitment will continue until it is filled.

Wiseman: Ex-CUC board chair's due process rights not violated

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has ruled that former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board chair Francisco Q. Guerrero's constitutionally guaranteed due process rights were not violated when the prosecution inadvertently failed to disclose an Attorney General Investigation Unit's report regarding Guerrero's sexual abuse charges.

In his order on Monday, Wiseman determined that the AGIU reports at issue are not Brady material because they do not contain evidence favorable to the defense and would not have any effect on the verdict of the counts that Wiseman decided.

Brady material refers to a piece of evidence known to the prosecution that is important for establishing the innocence or reducing the punishment of a defendant.

Wiseman also concluded that no prejudice resulted from the CNMI government's non-disclosure of the first AGIU report where the second report containing substantially the same information was produced ahead of trial.

A Superior Court jury acquitted the 63-year-old Guerrero in July of two counts of a sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, but Wiseman found him guilty of 11 charges: three counts of assault and battery, five counts of disturbing the peace, two counts of indecent exposure in the second degree, and sexual abuse of a minor in the fourth degree.

Last Nov. 19, Wiseman sentenced Guerrero to six years in prison, without the possibility of parole.

Guerrero, through counsel Brien Sers Nicholas, filed an emergency motion with the CNMI Supreme Court seeking a stay of the sentence pending appeal.

Before trial, Guerrero had requested a discovery material from the prosecution, including an AGIU report made at or around the time of Guerrero's arrest, which potentially contained statements from the victim that Guerrero believed were material and exculpatory.

When the government did not provide the AGIU report or

additional discovery, Guerrero filed a motion to compel, arguing the small amount of materials the government produced in the course of the case could not have met the prosecution's burden to turn over evidence.

Wiseman denied Guerrero's motion to compel, and declined to review the disputed evidence in camera (private) because "the government had assured the court that all exculpatory material had been produced."

In coming to a finding of guilty, Wiseman relied "on the credibility of the victim's testimony."

Guerrero then filed a motion for a stay of sentence, but Wiseman denied it.

Last December, the High Court denied Guerrero's motion to suspend the execution of the court's sentencing order. The justices, however, remanded in part for further proceedings in Superior Court to determine if an AGIU report about the defendant's sexual abuse charges exists.

In his order on remand on Monday, Wiseman said the evidence contained within the reports could not be held to undermine the court's confidence in its guilty finding based on the bench counts, and thus is not Brady material.

On the prejudice issue, Wiseman said the government produced the second report before trial, which contained substantially the same information as the first report, albeit in slightly less detail.

"No prejudice could have resulted where defendant acquired the same information before trial via discovery which produced the second report," the judge pointed out.

The CNMI Supreme Court recently denied Guerrero's motion to reconsider its ruling that denied his request to suspend execution of his six-year prison sentence pending resolution of his appeal over his conviction.



FLOWER DESTINATION

A man walks through rows of flowering plants yesterday at the enhanced U.S. Armed Forces Memorial in the San Jose-Oleai area. The Saipan mayor's office and other officials including Gov. Eloy S. Inos support the idea of marketing Saipan as a "flower destination" in the Pacific to further boost CNMI tourist arrivals that in January alone went up by 6 percent compared to the same month last year.

HAIDE V. EUGENIO

Marianas Cup 2014

22nd Annual Beach Volleyball Festival

The longest running beach volleyball event in Micronesia

February 12 – March 2

www.nmivolleyball.org

REMAINING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS	
SATURDAY - March 1	SUNDAY - March 2
MARIANAS KIDS CUP	MARIANAS KIDS CUP 17U & 13U 4-person Co-Ed
Registration On-Going at St. John's School	Registration at MISO Games @ MHS Thur 2/27 4-6pm
GUAM – Gun Beach	SAIPAN – Fiesta Resort & Spa beach side

Platinum

Gold

Silver

Bronze

Auntie Song • Marianas Legal Strategy • Brother's Clinic • Medical Associates of the Pacific • Joshua Berger
Hofschneider Engineering • AIC Marianas Inc. • EFC Service Corporation • Lollipops Inc • Smile Marianas
Stephen Nutting • Marianas Eye Institute • Tim Goodwin • Pacific Airport Services • Saipan International School
BSEA Sunsports • Deloitte • Marianas Medical Services • San Vicente Estates • Subway • Tano Group

KIDS CUP 17U & 13U (IN SAIPAN)

- Saipan: Fiesta Resort & Spa beachside
- Registration forms available at www.nmivolleyball.org
- \$10/person
- Registration at MISO games or SIS
- Registration open until 5pm Fri 2/28 at SIS
- Open to all players
- Get more info off of the registration form or email Mili Saiki milisaiki@hotmail.com

M&D BBQ will be at the beachside with us selling "Street Market" style food specials 10am – 4pm

NMC's Hart tells Rotary: 'We need to step up'

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart said yesterday that the college needs "to step up" as it moves forward with accreditation and other future plans.

Hart, who was guest speaker of the Rotary Club of Saipan yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, pointed out that even though NMC has just regained its accreditation with the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, it now wants to shift its accreditation to the Senior College and University Commission. Both are under the Western Association of Schools and Colleges but shifting to the senior commission will allow NMC to offer more four-year degree courses.

Hart said that people have asked her: "Why not just rest for awhile and enjoy where you're at?"

"Well, what we have been saying to the junior commission for years is we want to come out of sanction because...we know there is a tremendous need out there for students to complete a baccalaureate degree in business," she said.

According to Hart, statistics show that those with a baccalaureate degrees in the CNMI



Northern Marianas College president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart speaks to members of the Rotary Club of Saipan yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, as club president Laila Y. Boyer listens.

are mostly contract workers. Adding more four-year degree programs will help the local community continue and further their education, she said.

Major areas with baccalaureate degree holders are mostly business, marketing, and accounting, so "we need to be that institution

that focuses on providing students with better degrees," she said.

Right now, under the ACCJC, NMC is allowed to offer only one four-year degree: its bachelor's degree in education.

Strategic imperatives

Hart said that this plan and others

are embodied in a 25-page document titled "Northern Marianas College Strategic Plan 2015-2020: Full Speed Ahead."

Hart noted that part of the strategic plan are five imperatives.

One of that is to "focus on CNMI needs that are tremendous," Hart said.

NMC is now under the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. She said this will ensure that NMC's courses are closely aligned with WICHE and other regional institutions. That maximizes students' credit enrollments and minimizes their financial investment.

The imperative also requires strengthening links with the Public School System's curriculum to NMC's curriculum so students can easily transition to NMC while reducing the need for developmental courses. This also seeks to improve the rigor of remedial program offerings to align with college level offerings and program offerings that match the employment needs of the CNMI.

The second imperative is to ensure continued accreditation by embracing the culture of accreditation using standards and criteria for review and demonstrate effective performance.

The third imperative is the goal to accelerate the time it takes for a student to complete a degree. This means reducing the time between a student's entry and enrollment in a program of study and graduation. Another important key is increasing the number of students completing

their programs on time.

The fourth imperative is to improve student success and support.

"This will require a student-focused and data-driven environment within the institution," according to the plan.

NMC will implement strategies to enhance recruitment and preservation rate, working with local government leaders to establish educational attainment and completion goals on jobs requiring post-secondary education to align with federal benchmarks.

The last imperative is to strengthen operations and resource development, which requires an effective and efficient operation. NMC must achieve this through a culture fostering organizational entrepreneurship.

"For any organization to move forward, or steam ahead, it must have a clearly defined path of where it is, where it wants to go, and how it plans to get there," Hart said. "The strategic imperatives will allow the college to continue to meet its stated mission for its students and the Commonwealth and to maintain a strong accreditation position for the benefit of all." (Jayson Camacho)

Tinian lawmakers OK \$48K for patients, judgment payment

»Delegation also passes medical assistance review board

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

By a vote of 4-0, the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation passed yesterday a local bill appropriating \$48,000 in poker fees for some Tinian patients' monthly subsistence allowance and to pay for a court judgment related to an infant death a few

years back.

Of the total amount, \$38,000 will go to the monthly and retroactive subsistence allowance of Tinian patients on dialysis or with cancer, multiple sclerosis, debilitating epilepsy seizure disorder, dermatomyositis, or post-cerebral vascular accident.

The remaining \$10,000 will go to the Tinian family of an

infant who died at the Commonwealth Health Center years back and was awarded court judgment, in connection with Civil Action 12-0108.

"We took it upon ourselves to help pay the judgment because according to the Office of the Attorney General, it's the only judgment involving Tinian residents and the Department of

Finance said there's no money somewhere else to pay for it," Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian) told *Saipan Tribune*.

Besides Conner, the other Tinian delegation members are Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), Sen. Frank Borja (Ind-Tinian), and Sen. Joaquin Borja (Ind-Tinian).

Conner's House Local Bill 18-41 now goes to the governor

for action.

"I am hoping that the bill will be signed into law so that medically assisted patients can be helped," Conner added.

The Tinian delegation also passed without amendment HLB 18-42, establishing a Tinian medical assistance review board that will screen and verify medically assisted patients. The bill also now goes to the governor for action.

The three-member Tinian Medical Assistance Review Board, under the mayor's office, is to be composed of three persons appointed by the Tinian mayor. Their responsibility is to screen medical patients for purposes of determining medical suitability for receiving dialysis or terminally ill financial assistance.

Under the local bill, two of the board members shall be nurses who are residents of Tinian, while the third one shall be a physician, mid-level provider practicing in the CNMI.



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(This ad is paid for by NMHC.)

OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 10, 2014
CLOSING DATE: MARCH 7, 2014 TIME: 4:30 PM

SALARY RANGE IS GRADE LEVEL 33, STEP 01
AT \$26,131.390 TO STEP 05 AT \$31,757.680

"ROTA FIELD OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE"

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to officemanager@nmhc.gov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 14-002

Opening Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2014
Closing Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2014

Accountant

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Chief Accountant or designee. May supervise accounting support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Maintains, monitors, and balances assigned funds. Performs professional accounting duties, including but not limited to: project accounting; grants reporting and management; Public Utilities Commission (PUC) compliance reporting; utility rate case data analysis and reporting; general journal entry preparation and posting/analyzing accounts; assisting with annual audits including preparation of audit schedules. Prepares, reviews, and submits a variety of reports, reconciliations, and statements to and from internal departments, financial institutions, and/or Local, State, and Federal agencies. Performs month-end and year-end closing of books of accounts; Prepares analyses of inventory and participates in periodic physical inventories. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level.

LOCATION: Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: \$ 34,176.00 to \$55,554.00 per annum.

CONTRACT: Not Contracted.
POSITION(S): Two (2).

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and four years of professional level accounting or auditing experience. **Knowledge of:** Supervisory principles; Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and applicable laws, rules and regulations; Intermediate mathematics; Skills in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Performing mathematical calculations; Applying accounting procedures and principles; Recording, analyzing, verifying, reconciling, and reporting accounting transactions; Operating a 10-key machine; Preparing and analyzing financial statements and reports; Using computers and related software applications including intermediate to advanced knowledge using MS Excel; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. **Preferred experience/skills:** include recent (within most recent 12 months) project and fund accounting experience, MS Access or other DB application experience, MS Dynamics proficiency, and auditing experience (either external or internal). Applicants may be tested. Subject to pre-employment drug test.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.



International Distributors

A TanHoldings Company

D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd. is a leading distributor of quality consumer goods. We have an immediate opening for an experienced

ACCOUNTING CLERK

- ❑ Minimum 2 years of varied accounting experience required, ideally in wholesale or similar industry.
- ❑ Computer skills required with solid experience in Microsoft Excel and ACCPAC / Sage, or a similar accounting system.
- ❑ You should be result oriented and must be well organized, reliable, punctual, and a self-starter.
- ❑ The successful applicant only will be required to provide a police clearance.
- ❑ Applicants must be able legally work in the U.S.A..

We offer an excellent benefits package.

D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd. is an equal opportunity employer.

For more information, please call 322 2706, or apply in person at the CTSI Building, Lower Base. Fax 322 2711.
Email info@dqsaiipan.com

CUC eyes mutually acceptable resolution on collection lawsuits

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

More than two months after the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. sued three of its biggest customers, nothing solid has been reached to date by all parties concerned, according to CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren.

However, he remains optimistic that something positive will come out from the cases, which aim to collect \$18.9 million in unpaid obligation to the corporation.

CUC sued the central government, Public School System, and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. in early December for unpaid bills. The healthcare cor-

poration has the highest arrears totaling \$9.690 million, including pre-judgment interest. The Public School System owes \$5.936 million while the central government owes \$1.241 million.

These three respondents, according to CUC, have failed, refused, and neglected to pay for utility services covering previous fiscal years.

Warren told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that despite some discussions with some parties, no definite answers have been reached to date.

"While CUC has had discussions with PSS, no agreement on payment of their unpaid obligations has yet to be reached," Warren said.

He also disclosed that no discussions have been held with CHCC yet.

Warren said that CUC still hopes to reach an amicable settlement with these agencies.

"For the collection lawsuits, CUC looks forward to a mutually acceptable resolution. It is too early in the process to know exactly what form this resolu-

tion will take," he said.

CUC disclosed that if these customers' arrears and all future bills are paid on time, this would lower the LEAC (levelized energy adjustment clause) charges for all customers by about \$5.5 million and increase the amount of cash available to CUC by \$2.3 million.

In a separate interview with Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero, he disclosed that PSS is eyeing the unremitted maintenance-of-effort funds from the central government to pay its

arrears with CUC. Based on PSS records, the outstanding MOE amount is at \$7 million covering fiscal years 2010 and 2011.

However, Gov. Eloy S. Inos recently told *Saipan Tribune* that the government has no funds to satisfy the MOE requirement at this time. He also could not immediately specify the MOE amount owed PSS pending the administration's request to change the MOE formula.

Meantime, the CHCC board is slated to tackle on Thursday

what the corporation plans to do with the collection lawsuit filed by CUC. In an earlier interview with *Saipan Tribune*, CHCC interim CEO Esther Muña said they do not dispute CUC's bills but that the hospital can only afford to pay just half of what it consumes every month.

She disclosed that the corporation has a priority list for its expenditures, which include paying off little by little the "old accounts" owed vendors. When that is resolved, CHCC will then have money to spare for CUC.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy, happy 4th birthday to our not so baby boy, Davon Anthony S. Laniyo! We hope you enjoy your special day. May God bless you and we love you so much! Always, Mommy, Daddy and family.



Happy 1st birthday to my handsome godson, Aven Cullen S. Taitano! Wishing you a fun-filled day and many more birthdays to come! Lots of love from Nina Vanessa and family.



Happiest of birthday greetings going out to an awesomely great, phenomenal, superb, wise, and very inspirational boss, educator, counselor, mentor, mother, wife, sister, daughter, cousin and friend—Boni R. Pangelinan, who celebrates her birthday today, Wednesday, Feb. 26! May you have a blessed day and week! Cheers to you and many, many more years to come! Much love coming from your entire SVES Canary family. Biba Boni!



Happy 18th birthday, Vans! You're an admirable person and an awesome friend. God bless you.



The 2014 Marianas March Against Cancer committee receives donations from Delta Airlines yesterday morning at the Saipan International Airport.

JAYSON CAMACHO

Delta Air Lines named title sponsor of 2014 MMAC

The 2014 Marianas March Against Cancer Committee has named Delta Air Lines a title sponsor of this year's edition of the annual march.

Title sponsor is the highest level of sponsorship for the Marianas March Against Cancer.

Delta representatives turned over its donation to MMAC

committee members yesterday at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

The donations consisted of one Economy Class ticket to the United States, one Economy Class ticket to Japan, and a \$300 travel credit voucher. The Delta donation will be raffled off as prizes at the MMAC.

"The 2014 MMAC committee extends its gratitude to Delta Air Lines for their generous support in the fight against cancer. Their contribution is sincerely appreciated," said MMAC committee chair Manny Borja.

"Delta Air Lines is pleased to once again become a title sponsor of the MMAC," said Delta

Air Lines sales executive Chris A. Concepcion. "We support the CCA's efforts in their battle against this deadly affliction. We know that cancer is a leading cause of death in the CNMI so we are glad to put our support behind this noble cause."

MMAC teams will be selling raffle tickets for \$5 each and prizes include the Delta donation along with other items.

The 2014 MMAC has begun preparations for the largest annual cancer fundraising event in the Northern Mariana Islands. It is the largest fundraising activity and signature fundraising event of the Commonwealth Cancer Association.

The 2014 MMAC will be held on May 2-3 at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao. (Jayson Camacho)

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION

Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold a Special Meeting on Thursday, February 27, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference room.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
 - d. Adoption of Minutes
- II. Public Comments¹
- III. Reports
 - a. Chair's Report
 - b. Executive Director's Report
- IV. New Business
 - a. Casino Employee License Applications
- V. Executive Session²
- VI. Miscellaneous/Administrative Matters
- VII. Adjournment

¹Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
²Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time



PUBLIC NOTICE



In accordance with the "Open Government Act", the Public School System State Board of Education, through their Special Education State Advisory Panel (SESAP), is hereby serving notice to the general public that it will hold a Special Meeting on Friday, February 28, 2014, 9:00am to 1:00pm at the Board of Education Conference Room, Susupe Saipan. This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters
 - a) Roll Call
 - b) Presence of a Quorum
 - c) Adoption of Agenda
- II. State Systemic Improvement Plan
- III. Miscellaneous
- IV. Adjournment

In compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but require accessibility such as large print or sign language interpreters must call 237-3029. Several days notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/S/ Dexter Apatang
Chairperson

/S/ Suzanne Lizama
Director, Special Education Program

Paid for by IDEA, Part B Funds

NORTHERN MARIANAS OLYMPIC COMMITTEE AND NORTHERN MARIANAS AMATEUR SPORTS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 502476, SAIPAN, MP 96950 U.S.A.
TEL.: (670) 234-6547 • FAX: (670) 234-9537

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE SUSUPE SPORTS COMPLEX

The Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association is interested in meeting with interested companies to discuss the possibility of one or more long-term contracts for cleaning and maintenance of the Susupe Sports Complex, including the Ada Gym, Tun Ko Palacios baseball field, the athletics track, the Miguel S. Pangelinan softball field, and related facilities.

The meeting will be held on Saturday, March 8, 2014, at 9:00 a.m., at the Ada Gym Conference Room. All interested companies are encouraged to send a representative.

For further information, please contact Michael A. White at 234-6547 or by email at mwhite@saipan.com

7 charged with distributing meth on Saipan

The U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, Alicia A.G. Limtiaco announced Friday that on Feb. 20, 2014, seven men were arrested on separate charges of distributing methamphetamine. The arrests were made following the filing of federal criminal complaints on Feb. 19, 2014.

Daniel A. Castro, 32, of Saipan, CNMI, was arrested following the filing of a criminal complaint. On Feb. 20, 2014, the grand jury returned a four-count indictment charging him with distributing methamphetamine on May 29, 2013, June 20, 2013, Nov. 6, 2013, and Feb. 14, 2014.

Vicente S. Palacios, 38, of Saipan, CNMI, was arrested

following the filing of a criminal complaint. On Feb. 20, 2014, the grand jury returned a one-count indictment charging him with distributing methamphetamine on Oct. 11, 2012.

Bao Zhong Wang, 46, of the People's Republic of China, was arrested following the filing of a criminal complaint. On Feb. 20, 2014, the grand jury returned a two-count indictment charging him with distributing methamphetamine on Nov. 27, 2014, and Dec. 12, 2012. The indictment also contains a forfeiture allegation, seeking forfeiture of proceeds of the alleged crimes and a vehicle allegedly used to facilitate the crimes.

Hong Wang, 40, of the

People's Republic of China, was arrested on following the filing of a criminal complaint charging him with distributing methamphetamine on March 6, 2013.

Le Xiang Chen, 63, of the People's Republic of China, was arrested following the filing of a criminal complaint. On Feb. 20, 2014, the grand jury returned a two-count indictment charging him with

distributing methamphetamine within 1000 feet of a school on Nov. 8, 2012, and Dec. 12, 2012. The indictment also contains a forfeiture allegation, seeking forfeiture of proceeds of the alleged crimes and a property allegedly used to facilitate the crimes.

Two men—Xing Bo Fang, 46, of the People's Republic of China, and Yu Hua Wang, 46, of the People's Republic of

China—were arrested following the filing of a criminal complaint charging them jointly with distributing methamphetamine on Dec. 27, 2013.

All seven defendants have been preliminarily detained on the motion of the United States, pending further proceedings before the court scheduled for February 24 and 26, 2014.

The investigation was conducted by the U.S. Drug En-

forcement Administration, Department of Public Safety, and CNMI Customs and Border Protection. The cases are being prosecuted by assistant U.S. attorneys Ross K. Naughton and Rami S. Badawy.

The charges and allegations contained in the complaints and indictments are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. (USAO)

Navy cleans up heavy fuel spill

APRA HARBOR, Guam—Military personnel and contractors recovered approximately 250 gallons of intermediate fuel oil, commonly referred to as IFO-180,

that were inadvertently discharged from USNS *TSgt John A. Chapman* (T-AK 323) into Apra Harbor while moored at Kilo Wharf Feb. 23.

Responders from U.S.

Coast Guard Sector Guam, U.S. Naval Base Guam port operations and DZSP 21 LLC, which is the Navy's base operations support contractor, responded immedi-

ately to assess the situation and begin recovery efforts. The cleanup was completed the same day.

This incident is unrelated to the *Daiki Maru*, which is the Japanese commercial fishing vessel that ran aground in Apra Harbor Feb. 13. (PR)



SVES STANDS UP VS BULLYING

San Vicente Elementary School students and staff gather around the school stage area to showcase their school spirit by wearing pink on Friday, Feb. 21, during CNMI Anti-Bullying Week 2014. Wear pink to erase bullying!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



February 26, 2006

Marines eyeing NMI?

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial met with a high-ranking official of the U.S. Department of Defense two weeks ago about a possible increase in military presence in the Commonwealth. Rear Admiral Charles Joe Leidig, the U.S. Pacific Defense representative to the CNMI, Guam, Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of Palau, came to meet with the governor on Feb. 13, 2006. Leidig also serves as commander of the U.S. Naval Forces Marianas and Navy Region Marianas. According to Fitial, one of the topics discussed during the meeting was

increased military presence in the islands, particularly Tinian. But the governor was quick to add that nothing concrete has been decided yet.

Govt cautioned vs dislocation of employees

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Charles V. Cepeda cautioned the Fitial administration yesterday on its workforce reduction plan, saying the business community would be unable to accommodate displaced employees at this time of economic slump. Cepeda raised this during Friday's press briefing at the Governor's Office. He said that, while the business

group supports the downsizing within the government, it has to be done prudently. "We are concerned as to where they [displaced employees] are going. We want to be careful with that because we may not be able to accommodate them," said Cepeda.

February 26, 2007

Hundreds welcome DC staffers

Hundreds of Dekada Movement members and supporters held a peacefully rally yesterday afternoon at the American Memorial Park, hoping to get support from the visiting former Office of Insular Affairs director now congressional staff member Allen Stayman. After the rally, Dekada president Boni Sagana, Dekada counsel Stephen Woodruff, and some representatives from differing nationalities, proceeded to Hyatt Regency Saipan where

they spent more than an hour meeting with Stayman and his staff. The ralliers composed of Filipinos, Bangladeshis, Chinese, Koreans, Sri Lankans, and Nepalese started converging at 3pm.

Fitial issues govt travel ban

A ban on all government travel is now in effect. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has issued a memorandum prohibiting travel by employees within the central government. The decision was made after a special Cabinet meeting on Friday. "Effective immediately, this administration will no longer process travel authorizations," the memorandum read. The travel ban applies to both locally funded and federally funded travel. The governor has sole authority to approve exemptions. According to the memorandum, travel will only be allowed if it is deemed by the

governor to be "absolutely vital and essential to the welfare of the CNMI." Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said yesterday that exemptions would be granted if the travel was needed to comply with court or federal grant-giving agency requirements.

February 26, 2008

Patients walking off with CHC equipment

For many years now, patients and their families have been taking hospital property home like freebies and not returning them, costing the hospital a lot of money to replace basic equipment like wheelchairs, blankets, and hospital gowns. Just recently, an individual donated 20 wheelchairs to the Commonwealth Health Center but, according to CHC Volunteers president Kim Prinz-Coats, "now they're all gone." The situation has gotten to

a point where the CHC Volunteers is now pleading with people to return the equipment. According to Prinz-Coats, they have spent over \$2 million over the years on hospital equipment and other hospital items that should not be replaced until a period of time. But because people were just taking them, the missing hospital property would have to be replaced.

Volcanic haze here again

The Emergency Management Office issued another volcanic haze alert after gases emitted by the Anatahan Volcano blanketed Saipan, Tinian, and Rota yesterday. Many Saipan residents didn't notice the haze as it was raining most of the day. Classes at public and private schools were not cancelled. EMO advised people who are having breathing problems to remain indoors while the volcanic haze advisory remains.

MTEC sends Tiglao to Guam Tourism Summit

For winning this year's school essay contest sponsored by the Marianas Tourism Education Council, 10th grader Mary Grace Tiglao of Marianas High School attended the Guam Tourism Summit on Jan. 31, 2014.

Tiglao was selected for having the best high school entry on the theme "Tourism is Everybody's Business, 24/7 in the 670." She joined 300 middle and high school students at Father Duenas School Phoenix Center in exploring the summit's theme "My History is Guam's History...My Future is Guam's Future."

"We must maintain and preserve our islands' beauty and culture," said Tiglao in her report to MTEC following the summit. "We must always try to give our visitors an unforgettable experience...For example, attractions and places to dine with good food, service, and people...Museums are also great places for visitors and locals alike to learn more about



Mary Grace Tiglao of Marianas High School, second from left, attended the Guam Tourism Summit on Jan. 31, 2014, as her prize for winning this school year's essay contest by the Marianas Tourism Education Council. Pictured from left are Guam Tourism Education Council executive director Heidi Ballendorf, Tiglao, and Tiglao's parents.

the history and culture of their area."

The summit featured a mini-tour of exhibits on Guam's cultural and history, including a slideshow, presentations about the importance of tourism, inspirational speakers who spoke of Guam's history and their personal stories. Participants also learned Chamorro dance, and chants and poetry were presented.

"When people visit our island, we ought to give them a taste of our culture and showcase to them the many aspects of it unforgettable experience... so that we can educate other people about [our] culture," Tiglao added.

Tiglao also had the opportunity to meet Heidi Ballendorf, executive director of Guam's Tourism Education Council. She was accompanied by MTEC chairman Vicky Benavente, MTEC board member Larry Lee, and her parents. (MTEC)

MTEC visits Saipan Southern High, Tinian

The Marianas Tourism Education Council took its message on the importance of tourism to Saipan Southern High, Tinian Jr./Sr. High, and Tinian Elementary this month.

MTEC chairman Vicky Benavente and a supporting team from the Marianas Visitors Authority spoke to three classes of students simultaneously on Feb. 5, 2014.

"The presentation at Saipan Southern was a great opportunity to actively engage the students on tourism-related topics specific to their age group," said Benavente. "Not only did we share information about the industry, but we also emphasized job opportunities and gave the students a chance to share their own knowledge of the industry and our source markets."

On Feb. 14, the council visited the two schools in Tinian, addressing about 50 students at Tinian Jr./Sr. High, where about one-third of the students indicated they planned

to join the military after graduation. At Tinian Elementary, about 100 students sat in on

MTEC's presentation.

"We appreciate the warm welcome we received, in-

cluding some Valentine's Day sweets from Tinian Jr./Sr. High's active MY WAVE

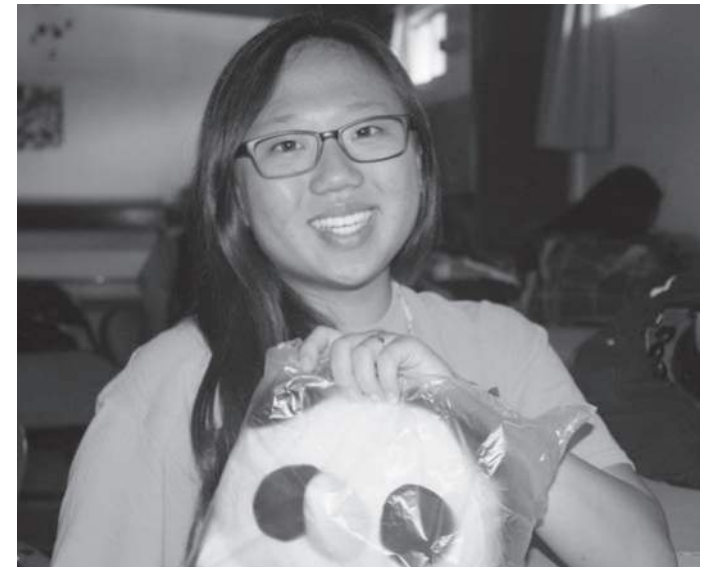


Catherine Perry of the Marianas Tourism Education Council allows students of Saipan Southern High School to share cultural values and important phrases from Korea during MTEC's presentation at the school on Feb. 5, 2014. So far this fiscal year, Korea has been the largest source market of visitors to the Northern Marianas with 51,000 visitors.

(Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically) Club, who were having a fundraiser that day," said Benavente. "At the elementary school, the students were very enthusiastic to share their ideas about what makes Tinian a nice place to visit and what activities they would

recommend to a visitor... everything from visiting the latte stones and swimming at Taga Beach to eating local food."

MTEC is a non-profit organization aimed at educating the public on the tourism industry and its importance to the community. (MTEC)



A student of Saipan Southern High School receives a Saipan-da backpack for sharing with her peers her experience as a competitor in the 2013 Saipan Marathon. The presentation was made as part of Marianas Tourism Education Council's visit to the school on Feb. 5, 2014.



Marianas Tourism Education Council chairman Vicky Benavente, right, poses with students of Tinian Elementary and their prizes following MTEC's presentation at the school on Feb. 14, 2014.



Community projects specialist Ryan Calvo of the Marianas Visitors Authority, standing center, shares the role of MVA with students of Tinian Elementary on Feb. 5, 2014, during a presentation of the Marianas Tourism Education Council.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIV, Issue No. 40

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Being honest about inaction in Syria

Here's how President Barack Obama explained his policy in Libya: "In this particular country—Libya—at this particular moment, we were faced with the prospect of violence on a horrific scale. We had a unique ability to stop that violence."

Judging by the administration's tepid response to even ghastlier violence in Syria, this "unique ability" was the critical determinant in Libya—not the moral imperative to prevent more bloodshed.

An international coalition that included the Arab League was in favor of airstrikes in Libya, the rebels were united and it was a relatively low-risk, high-yield engagement. Conversely, Syria has more robust air defenses and its religious makeup—as well as the opposition—is dangerously stratified.

But Syria is more troubling than Libya in every conceivable way. There are more than 8 million internal and external refugees and almost 140,000 people have perished, compared with 1.5 million refugees and 30,000 deaths in Libya.

Beyond the revolting human cost, there are serious strategic concerns. Al-Qaida is becoming more entrenched and intends to use Syria as a base for future operations. The entire region is being destabilized by the worst refugee crisis in recent history. Sectarian tensions have been inflamed by Saudi and Iranian proxies, spurring violence in other parts of the region. Yes, Syria is a more difficult situation, but there's a lot more to lose.

Obama sounded impressively authoritative when he declared to the American and Libyan people, "As president, I refuse to wait for the images of slaughter and mass graves before taking action." There's no shortage of excruciating images from Syria, either, but Obama continues to wait. Assad's chemical weapons may be neutralized, but the regime is happy to go about the business of slaughter with conventional weapons (clever ones, too, such as barrel bombs filled with shrapnel and hot oil).

Blatant rhetorical inconsistency serves as a good warning—never take high-minded presidential reassurances at face value. This goes for "rejecting the forces of tyranny" or "anchoring global security" as well, comments Obama made in his speech last September about chemical weapons in Syria. Yes, the canisters, shells and gas are now secure. The people of Syria and our interests in the Middle East, on the other hand, aren't. Let's be honest about it.

©2014 The Kansas City Star (Kansas City, Mo.)

A MINIMUM-WAGE
JOB IS THE STEPPING
STONE TO A BETTER-
PAYING ONE...

KIRK ©2014 The Toledo Blade
kirk@theblade.com



...ASSUMING, OF
COURSE THERE'S
ANOTHER STONE
TO JUMP TO.

Autocrats, beware: Squelching dissent won't work anymore

As a wave of protests against government corruption and misrule rolls from country to country, nervous autocrats are using the same formula to crush dissent.

From Russia, to Ukraine, to Venezuela, to Egypt, and beyond, there are copycat crackdowns: Arrest opposition leaders on absurd charges, hold show trials, beat—or sometimes shoot—protesters, and silence media that challenge the government's message. Then blame a foreign conspiracy for all that has gone wrong.

This formula kept many dictators in power in the 20th century. It is outdated in this one.

To understand why, let's look at the shameful trial last week of three respected journalists in Cairo.

Australian Peter Greste and two colleagues who work for the al-Jazeera English TV channel were charged Thursday with undermining Egypt's national security as they stood inside metal cages in a Cairo courtroom. The three were hauled out of their studio in Cairo's upscale Marriott Hotel in December, and have been held since, two of them in cold, insect-infested cells without access to needed medical treatment.

All three, including Egyptian Canadian Mohamed Fadel Fahmy and Egyptian Baher Mohamed, are highly respected journalists. Their real "crime" appears to have been that they worked for al-Jazeera, a broadcast network owned by Qatar. That Gulf emirate backs the Muslim Brotherhood, an Islamist group that dominated Egypt's electoral politics until the army ousted the president last summer.

However, al-Jazeera's English-language service—unlike the Arabic service—is widely considered to be a credible, independent broadcast network. "We had been doing exactly as any responsible, professional journalist would," wrote Greste in a letter smuggled from prison, "recording and trying to make sense of the unfolding events with all the accuracy, fairness and balance that our imperfect trade demands."

In its questionable effort to brand the Muslim Brotherhood a "terrorist organization," Egyptian officials seem intent on squelching any public discussion of how to heal a deeply divided society. Nor is it permissible to write about grave human-rights violations, such as the fatal shooting last summer of hundreds of Muslim Brotherhood demonstrators at the Rabaa al-Adawiya Mosque.

In the Egyptian version of "you are either with us or against us," even raising these subjects can mean arrest for treason. State-controlled television vilifies any government critics as traitors, and has branded the three arrested men "the Marriott cell" and run leaked footage of their arrest, accompanied by heavy music befitting a spy thriller. A Dutch journalist was named as a suspect—because she had met and talked with journalist Fahmy. She had to flee the country. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, at least 60 journalists have been detained in Egypt since July.

By TRUDY RUBIN

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by e-mail at trubin@phillynews.com.



A highly respected academic, the American University of Cairo's Emad Shahin, was roped into a treason trial of Muslim Brotherhood leaders, apparently because he has written and spoken about the need for political dialogue between Islamic and secular segments of society. This is vital in order to stabilize the country, given that the Brotherhood, despite its flaws, still has a substantial base of supporters. Never mind that efforts to erase it may drive some of its youth into the arms of the real terrorists, salafi groups that have taken root in Northern Sinai.

Never mind that arresting journalists and moderate critics (even liberal leaders of the Tahrir revolution) will boomerang.

That is already happening in Egypt. The hate speech pouring out of official media has further polarized the country and increased instability, without curbing terrorism. That, in turn, will make it harder for the president-in-waiting, Field Marshal Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, to restart Egypt's moribund economy and provide jobs for its youth.

Gulf states may bail Egypt out in the short term, but in the long term, the country needs foreign investment, and tourists, to flourish. A xenophobic, bitterly divided country is not an attractive climate for either.

And officials who are frantic to control all information can lose touch with reality. This, even as the younger Internet generation manages to access information that the regime seeks to repress.

Case in point: Last month, prosecutors investigated an allegation that a babbling hand puppet in a TV ad for Vodafone was sending coded instructions to Islamist terrorists. Officials from Vodafone Egypt were actually summoned to respond.

Tweeters and bloggers went wild with film clips of the chattering puppet. One English-language tweet by a Mohamed Abdul Fattah: "The Onion is shutting down their website citing unbeatable competition from the Egyptian government."

What's happening in Cairo should serve as a warning to other autocrats who use a similar formula for repression: A government that muzzles the media and shuts down dissent is setting itself up for future failure—or even farce—as the world and its young people look on.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Mea culpa time for NMI

The CNMI's wobbly fiscal spine is forcibly pinned against the wall of some \$1.1 billion in debts while continuing deficit spending—spending money in advance of actual collection—a dangerous habit that inhibits any opportunity for growth.

Unbridled spending shows our inability to domesticate spending on spending. This could be attributed to leadership's inability to define, "What's North?" And I'm not alluding to direction either. If you could resolve this query then you don't have any problem with perception. If you can't, you must work on instructional reading assignments. This allows you to venture into meaningful comprehension of substantive issues.

Does anybody know what really is the fiscal posture of the CNMI? Amidst the huge pile of debts, is there really a chance the annual pension of \$45 million could be paid per the settlement agreement?

Aren't there other significant obligations to contend with amidst revenue generation having headed Deep South? It means we all must reinvent the stick dance so we double it up with hopeful rain dance to see if the canoe of solvency could move out the harbor of bankruptcy. *De dios mihi!*

Steady trip to welfare status

It was in the mid-'80s when I played golf with a Kanaka boy from Honolulu at a links in Mililani. After several beers, we dropped him home at a large dwelling with a huge neatly trimmed yard. He said he makes \$36,000 a year from federal subsidies. No wonder he wasn't in a hurry to find meaningful employment. Uncle Sam bankrolls his needs plus a stint chasing after a small ball.

In this connection, with spikes in health premiums and other increases eating into the pockets of families here, it seems the beginning to forcing more healthy people to slide into welfare status over the more meaningful means of self-support. Was this by design or happenstance? I mean, why work when Uncle Sam covers most of my daily needs?

We hail from a culture of responsibility where our parents teach us to be independent. But even with dedication, this discipline slips through the cracks when meaningful opportunities no longer exist. It brings the lack of economic opportunities squarely back to leader-

ship sleeping contently on the switchboard. Call it sleepwalking or negligence or both.

How do we begin addressing and resolving this socio-economic malady? Or is this supposedly the microcosm of our future? It begins with economic prosperity, the latter term a very discouraging word amidst the famine at home.

Pagan: Military assimilation

In 1974, I spent several weeks in Kwajalein, Rongelap, Utrik, and Bikini with the Atomic Energy Team for the annual check-up of islanders adversely affected by radiation.

I caught the ferry to Ebeye loaded with employees working on Kwajalein who return home at 6pm. Small Cessna airplanes ferry employees for a round of golf, swimming, partying and bowling from nearby Roi Namur. So what's my point?

The development of Pagan need not be solely the CNMI's. The military should find the money for the emplacement of basic infrastructure to allow resettlement of the island. The NMI is struggling in the filthy swamp of fiscal impotence—broke!

Islanders could work with the military establishment and community. It's a peaceful co-existence that should reap the most benefits for both. It's called assimilation. It's a useful paradigm that leads to harmony between host and the military.

Sterile policies

If the issue is deeply mired in the filthy swamp of economic dystopia—where nothing works—why are policymakers so enamored with sterile policies that have nothing to do with economic revival or reinvestment? How could any of them miss the boat?

Indeed, the issue is of such magnitude that it requires personal perception and understanding of the deepening mess and what must be done to ease the village-level hardship. We haven't seen any legislation of stride so designed to reinvigorate anchor investments.

The obvious disorientation is dizzying, all the while the heavy pining from our people for some sense of leadership. But there's nothing up that alley. It's the usual mediocrity in business as usual. Or is it the people they represent who've missed the boat? Sterile

By **JOHN DELROSARIO**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



and irrelevant policies aren't the answers either. This tired refrain has gone on for too long now.

Deepening mess

Pay cuts plus the increase in the cost of living are sufficient reasons for families literally struggling to look for answers and help from other family members.

When these costs eat into the family purse, you darn well hope that help of any sort at the eleventh hour is a must. Is there hope for help from upstairs?

Reminds me of a joke of two friends drinking at the Sugar Dock in Susupe. About noon, one of them took a plunge into the water. Returning to the surface, he pulled a chicken thigh from his pocket and started munching.

Asked his friend, "Where did you get your chicken?"

Said he, "The guys downstairs are partying and handed me one." His buddy asked for direction. He pointed to a rocky shallow area.

When his friend took a dive he quickly resurfaced, face disarranged, all bloody and seriously injured too. Asked what happened, he replied, "They're drunk already and slammed me with fistful of knuckles." Oooops! Must be a messy dive, yeah?

■ ■ ■

With a good number of our people suffering from kidney failure at an alarming rates, shouldn't this be an urgent issue for research by CHC? It would be good to find out what causes kidney failure? Is it salt, fat, chronic case of Type II diabetes or just what is it? This alarming trend requires public education, i.e., causes and how to deal with the beast. I'd be more than happy to assist in the explanation of this material free of charge!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A politically incorrect governor

First, I must express my sincere apology to Sen. Torres as I view him as truly being a future executive of the CNMI but his choice for a running mate is surely going to kill his chances this time around. From the very beginning, Governor Inos was not a political leader but a financial officer and now his lack of basic political skills is truly starting to show. The fact that candidates for governor are coming out of the woodwork also tells me there is a feeding frenzy about to take place from the splashing by the governor.

For a governor who was never elected, he has truly let it go to his head. He actually thinks he can speak and dictate to the people on every issue without any kind of accountability to the people. Governor, FYI Political Science 101, whenever there is a tough issue on the table like the legalization of marijuana that truly meets the test for a decision by the people, don't say anything but "I think that it is a decision for the people." I know you have heard some of the real veteran politicians use this phrase out of pure wisdom but you just go off the handle and tell the people they can't have something or we are not ready yet like you did with the ferry when every school child knows we need a ferry service to the other islands. For your political incorrectness you can be assured the people are going to show you who is really the boss in November.

Amend the election law

If the indigenous people of the NMI desires to attract and consider new breeds of candidates for elected public offices, the CNMI election law should be amended for the purpose of expanding and including a wider selection of available prospective candidates. In addition to the present provision of candidacy qualification, the election law should include the following alternative qualification standards for all elected public offices with exception for the offices of the governor and Lt. governor. The amended language should at least provide for the following:

"A candidate for any public offices in the CNMI shall be qualified to vote in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, at least 25 years of age, born in the CNMI, and had voted and regis-

Governor, the president and the attorney general are leading the marijuana reform and over 20 states are already lined up behind Colorado and Washington, so for you to say legalizing marijuana is taking it too far shows your ignorance, arrogance, and lack of political experience. Furthermore, to insinuate that you can dictate what "we the people" can't or are not ready to do shows your arrogance and more importantly it is not your prerogative to decide for the people. The funny and sad part is you only give us lip service with sound bites like *we are not ready for that yet* and *legalizing is taking it too far* without any proof or concern for how the majority of the people (your bosses) feel on these major issues.

I have often wondered why you would put so much political real estate on the line pushing a casino issue that the majority has voted down twice and now the truth is slowly coming to the light and it is starting to smell so bad that many in the community as asking about Fitial's and your ties to the e-gaming and casino investors. You should be doing all you could to avoid even the slightest hint of improprieties but instead you keep going down the road to casinos. You and your predecessor have been pushing casinos for over 10 years using different people in the Legislature to sponsor bills and

tered to vote in the last 10 CNMI general elections preceding the date on which the elected official affirms the oath of office. No person convicted of a felony in the Commonwealth or in any area under the jurisdiction of the United States may be eligible for these offices unless a full pardon has been granted."

This particular amendment to the election law would open a wider selection and consideration of potential candidates for public offices in the CNMI. The question now is who in the Legislature would be willing to take charge of this matter?

Francisco R. Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

using every excuse under the sun. It's the old lying syndrome that once you tell one lie, you have to tell a thousand more trying to cover up the first one. Using half-truths about the need to earn revenues is no excuse to say only casinos can help us. Voters are smart enough to know that your half-truths are really whole lies. One people for demanding respect from our governor and the people's right to decide on all major political, social and economic issues

P.S.: I hope readers can see this as another reason why we need a polling system because the governor really needs to give the casino and the legalization issue to the people if you really want to be politically correct. Governor, talk to Sen. Torres, it's you only hope. Voters are not going to forget about a proven way to earn hundreds of millions that is fully supported by the President of the United States, congressional members and over 20 states based on what the governor thinks especially when it is not his choice but the people's!

Ambrose M Bennett

Kagman, Saipan

Thank you, Gov. Inos

Tears of thankfulness fell from eyes as I read the news about Rota receiving assistance in getting food for the island's residents. To some people who might not understand this situation, ask yourself this: Imagine that you live on Rota and receiving food stamp, how much food can you purchase if the food price is 50 percent higher? Can your family afford to buy all the food you will need for one month? If you're a middle income family, how can you survive if the price of gas is \$6.20 and utility cost is \$300 to \$400?






Thank you Gov. Inos for answering one of the questions I asked. I am grateful that you haven't forgotten your birthplace and I would be more grateful if you could give us an update on the active government employee interest status. Up until today, the only media reports are the attorney's fees and the settlement agreement on the employee's contributions. We are still waiting for you to come and tell us what's going on. Please don't wait until the last minute. Our pencil needs some sharpening before election time.

Winnie Atalig
San Jose, Tinian

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Partly sunny and windy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Northeast winds 20 to 30 mph.	Mostly cloudy and windy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Northeast winds 20 to 30 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲ 85° ▼ 75°	▲ 85° ▼ 75°	▲ 85° ▼ 75°	▲ 84° ▼ 75°	▲ 86° ▼ 75°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Yap	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 80

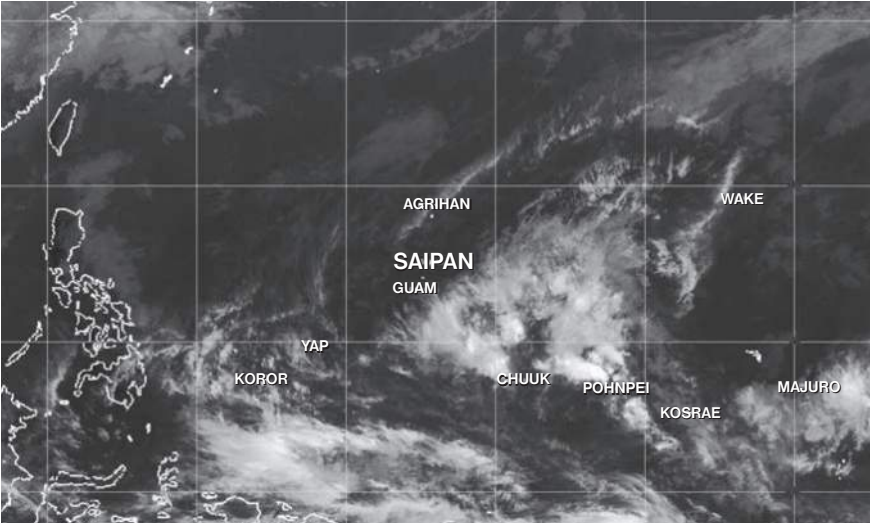
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲ 76 ▼ 63
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 47 ▼ 28
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 71 ▼ 64
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 77 ▼ 66
London	Showers	▲ 52 ▼ 39
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 66 ▼ 51
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 75
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 52
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲ 86 ▼ 67
New York	Snow	▲ 28 ▼ 13
Osaka	Showers	▲ 57 ▼ 50
Paris	Showers	▲ 47 ▼ 41
Pusan	Showers	▲ 57 ▼ 42
Rome	Rain	▲ 57 ▼ 44
Salem	Cloudy	▲ 59 ▼ 43
San Francisco	Rain	▲ 60 ▼ 52
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 55 ▼ 30
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲ 60 ▼ 50
Washington, DC	Snow	▲ 35 ▼ 22

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
5:55 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:12 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
4:27 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
11:47 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from east of Minami Tori Shima at 25N160E then across the Northern Marianas near Anatahan at 16N146E to end north of Koror at 8N134E. Cloudiness and patchy showers are found along and up to 250 miles northwest of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough extends south of the shear line from west of Koror near 7N130E to 5N140E to end near a broad circulation near Chuuk at 7N153E. Scattered showers and few thunderstorms are occurring west of Koror from 5N to 10N between 130E and 134E. A stronger band of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring south of the trough axis from the equator to 5N between 130E and 140E and to a lesser extent eastward to 149E. In the area north of Chuuk and east of the Marianas an area of low pressure troughing and low level convergence is aiding the development of a large area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms roughly from 7N to 16N between 146E and 160E. This area is slowly moving westward toward the Marianas but remains unorganized. Trade-wind convergence within the intertropical convergence zone is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from northeast of Kosrae and through the southern Marshall Islands just south of Majuro within 100 miles of a line from 5N166E to 6N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:36 AM	6:24 PM
Thursday	6:36 AM	6:24 PM
Friday	6:35 AM	6:24 PM
Saturday	6:34 AM	6:25 PM
Sunday	6:34 AM	6:25 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:25 AM	3:14 PM
Thursday	4:21 AM	4:16 PM
Friday	5:14 AM	5:18 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:19 PM
Sunday	6:54 AM	7:19 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS**
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS**
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI**
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE**
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN**
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 25, 2014

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily UA5039 1:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota UA5038 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6 UA5078 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily UA5072 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5039 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5038 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota UA5077 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA5079 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) UA5039 1:35pm 2:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) UA5038 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) UA5039 2:40pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5038 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ102 2:20am 5:50am 3 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 4, 7 (will increase eff Jan 29) DZ104 2:00pm 5:30pm 6 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN DZ101 8:30am 2:00pm 3 OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily DZ103 7:30pm 1:00am+1 6 OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 9:10pm 2:30am+1 3, 6 (will increase eff Jan 29)
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU764 4:00am 8:00am 1, 5	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU763 7:20pm 3:00am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:15am 9:05am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/473 6:00am 10:55pm Daily via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:40am 4:45pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:30pm 5 via Guam UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:50pm 1, 4, 7 via Guam UA5038/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5078/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily PR110/UA5072 7:35am 5:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM DL172/288 7:45am 1:30am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 9:55am 5:35pm 2, 7 via Guam UA190/5079 10:00am 5:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5068/179 8:40am 10:35pm 1, 5 via GUM UA5038/179 2:20pm 10:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ724/605 1:50pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:10pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-TIANJIN (TSN) D2884 10:45am 2:45pm Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24	TIANJIN (TSN)-SAIPAN D2885 4:45pm 12:20am+1 Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH) D2880 4:30pm 8:00pm Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27	HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN D2881 10:00pm 5:15am+1 Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27
SAIPAN-WUHAN (WUH) D2882 11:00am 3:15pm Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26	WUHAN (WUH)-SAIPAN D2883 5:15pm 12:20am+1 Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

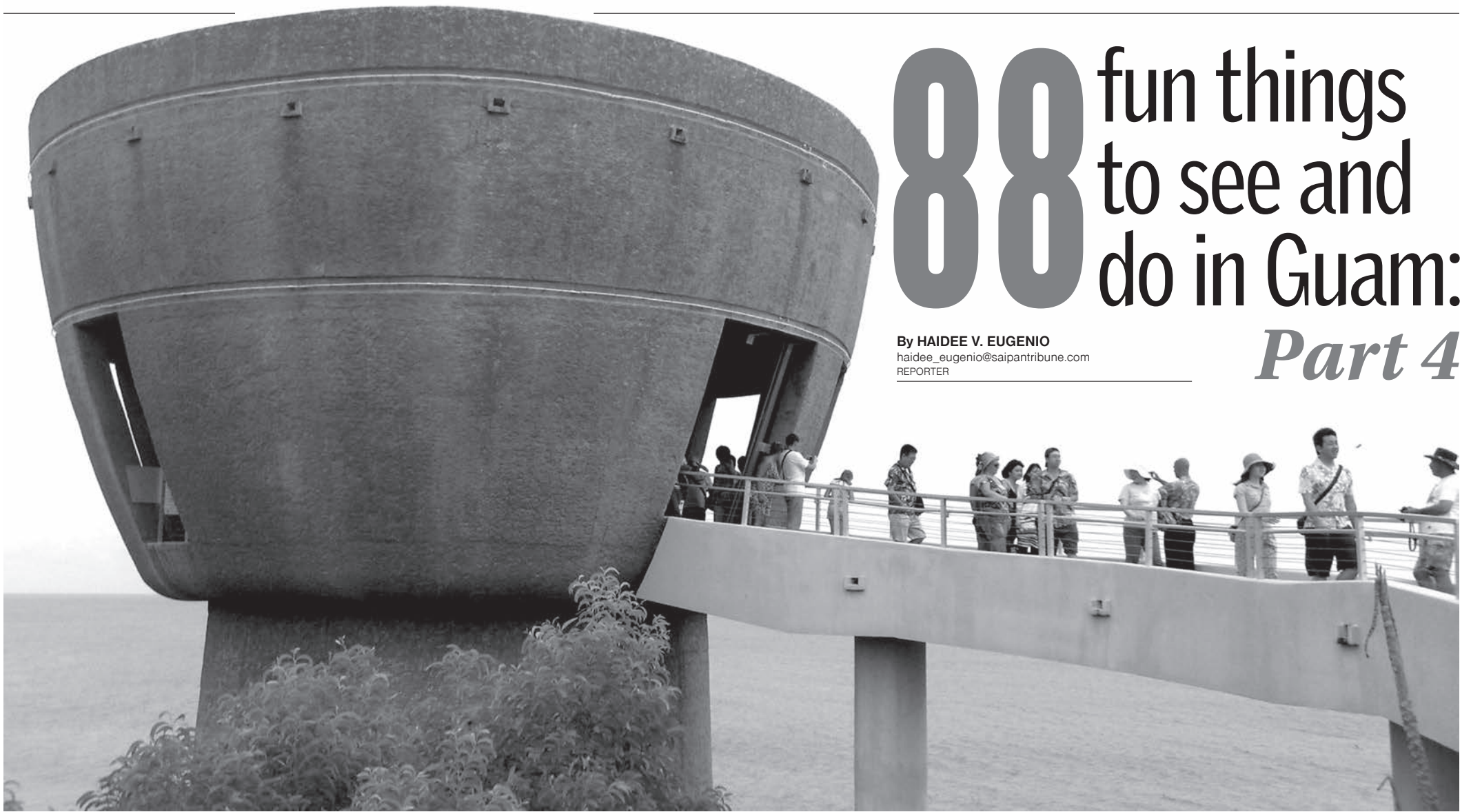
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

TRAVELOGUE

88 fun things to see and do in Guam: *Part 4*

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Residents and tourists check out the 60-foot high Latte of Freedom, the world's largest latte stone replica overlooking Asan Bay, Agana Bay and beyond, at the Guam governor's complex in Adelup.

Fourth of a five-part series

53 World's largest Latte Stone replica. Replicas and images of the iconic Latte Stones—the stone pillars of ancient Chamorro houses and found only in the Marianas—can be seen in many areas of Guam and the CNMI but the largest replica is found at the Guam governor's complex in Adelup. Called the Latte of Freedom, the 60-foot structure symbolizes the proud heritage of the Chamorro people and the Guamanian people. The Latte Stone-shaped monument can be seen from flights coming into Guam.

The Latte of Freedom serves as an observation deck where visitors can take in the views of Asan Bay, Agana Bay, and beyond. The monument also invites guests to learn about Guam's culture. It's one of the best places to snap a souvenir photo of Guam overlooking the coast.

54 Zip Line Guam. Feel the adrenaline rush as you zoom over treetops, enjoying Guam's stunning forest views, sparkling Tumon Bay and beyond from an entirely different perspective. With Zip Guam's opening, residents and visitors to Guam can now add "heading to the skies" to their must-do list, especially since most of the island's tourist activities have to do with beautiful beaches, walking tours of his-

toric and cultural sites, nature trails, restaurant and bar-hopping, and shopping.

Zip Guam, which advertises itself as "the height of adventure experience in Guam," is conveniently located on the property of Hilton Guam Resort & Spa in Tumon.

After getting considerable pep talk from friends near and far, I finally had my first zip line experience, courtesy of Zip Guam. It was supposed to be one of those new things "to try" right around your birthday. It's the closest thing to flying, with especially fitted safety harnesses, helmet, and gloves.

It has two zip lines—mountainside and ocean side—with three courses each with a length from 220 to 550 feet of steel cable, and up to 25 feet in the air. Zip liners launch from one steel platform to another, each about three-story high. It's not something you do for only a few minutes. The whole experience lasts about an hour—including walking from one platform to another, climbing stairwells to the platforms, and the actual zip lining.

Trevor Takasu, president and general manager of Zip Guam Inc., said he was inspired by his experiences with Zip Fiji, when he visited Fiji in the South Pacific in 2010.

Takasu said there have been inquiries from tourism-related businesses in the CNMI about the viability of also building a zip line on Saipan, but nothing is etched in stone so far.

Zip Guam is strict with their



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A replica of the patroness saint Santa Marian Kamalen, near the Merizo Bell Tower.

requirements to ensure everyone's safety as to mobility. You should weigh less than 280 pounds or 127 kilos and you

should fit in the equipment in a safe manner.

You must be able to walk 15 minutes uphill over uneven

ground, and have sufficient mobility and strength to climb a 25-foot stairwell unassisted. As Zip Guam's website states, "because body weight affects the crossing speed on the traverses and excessive speed can result in injuries, guests may be asked to weigh in prior to participation."

It's for people of most ages, from children 5 years old. There is no maximum age limit for adults, and requires no prior experience zip lining. Plus, the zip line guides are friendly, helpful, and professional.

Zip Line is open seven days a week from 8am to 5pm. The tours start every hour from 9am to 4pm.

As of this week, there is local promotional price of \$30 for children 5 to 17 years old and \$40 for those at least 18 years old.

For more about Zip Guam, visit their website at zipguam.com or call (671) 646-9471.

55 Dededo Flea Market. Bargain hunters or those simply curious to discover what Guam has to offer on weekend mornings will find a special treat or two among rows of new and used merchandise at the Dededo Flea Market on Marine Drive. Just be patient when looking for a nearby parking spot free of charge, or you can pay a fee to park near where the action is.

The flea market starts welcoming buyers at 6am on Saturdays and Sundays. Here, you

can find everything from arts and crafts to clothes, trinkets, toys, household items, plants, fruits, vegetables, pets, island souvenir items and used car parts. And if you get hungry or missed your breakfast trying to make it to the flea market on time, you can choose from stalls serving hot meals (try arroz caldo), coffee (don't look for brewed ones), other beverages, local pastries and delicacies.

It was at the Dededo Flea Market where I was able to buy used and old vinyl records for my turntable. I believe I got three for \$5, including a Roberta Flack record and a Cat Stevens' greatest hits. During my next visit to the flea market, all I was looking for is that makeshift stall selling used vinyl records, to no avail. A friend later pointed me to another area where I could possibly find old vinyl records, which brings me to...

56 Salvation Army thrift store. And my friend was right. Salvation Army thrift store in Tamuning sells vinyl records at much cheaper prices. But you have to be patient when browsing through the hundreds of available records, some of them really old and already rotten. But at the end of the day, you still get the best bargain on the island if you know what you're looking for to add to your vinyl record collection. Plus you help the min-

Continued on Next Page



Hike along white sand beach some 2 miles north of Tanguisson Beach to reach the picturesque Hilaan Beach. Along the way are mushroom-shaped rock formations.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

From Page 13

istry's work.

57 Chief Gadao Statue. You won't miss the statue as you drive through Inarajan, one of the best preserved of the Spanish-era villages, on Guam's southeastern coast. It is home to Chamorro Chief Gadao who, according to legend, was the strongest and wisest member of his clan. But there's also another chief named Malaguana from Northern Guam, believed to be of equal strength and stature. Legend has it that Chief Gadao outsmarted Chief Malaguana as the two rowed a canoe in opposite directions, breaking the canoe in half. Today, Chief Gadao's statue shows the powerful chief rowing his half of the canoe back to Inarajan.

Still based on legend, Chief Gadao drew the story of how he outsmarted Chief Malaguana on a wall in a cave as a remembrance of the event. The same petroglyph or rock engraving is still well preserved in Gadao's Cave in Inarajan, although there is still debate as to what the cave wall drawing really means.

58 Umatac Arch. When you see that prominent white-and-red European-inspired bridge that still looks new (they were built in the '80s), you're definitely in the southwestern village of Umatac. It doesn't matter that some think the welcome



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Children and adults check out the obelisk Magellan Monument, built in honor of the world renowned Portuguese explorer who sailed under Spanish flag, Ferdinand Magellan, whose first landing on Guam in 1521 was in the village of Umatac.

arch is out of place, because the village itself is rich in history as it is believed to be the first village in Guam to be

discovered and landed on by world renowned Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan, in 1521.

59 Magellan Monument. And since we're on the topic of Magellan, an obelisk monument was built at the center of Umatac Bay within a park in honor of Magellan's first landing in Guam in 1521. The monument, bearing the inscription, "Magellan landed here," overlooks a scenic view of Umatac Bay's black rocky coastline.

In March every year, Umatac village people celebrate Discovery Day to commemorate the historic occasion. Across the street is a commercial establishment bearing the name, "Magellan's Landing," with beer advertisements on top.

60 San Dionisio Catholic Church. Also overlooking Umatac Bay is the San Dionisio Catholic Church, the last of the several buildings constructed

on the site of old churches. The first church was destroyed in 1681 by Chamorros who opposed the Spanish occupation. The second one was ruined by a 1693 typhoon. The present-day structure was rebuilt in 1939. Ruins of its predecessor structures can be found some 50 yards east of the present church.

61 Kamalen Park. Near the Merizo Bell Tower is the Santa Marian Kamalen Park, in honor of the island's patroness saint. There is still debate on the original statue but legend has it that two crabs with lit candles on their backs guided the patroness ashore more than 300 years ago. The park has a replica of the patroness saint, while the original is housed in the Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral-Basilica in Hagatna.

62 Oldest building in Guam. The Merizo Conbento is believed to be the oldest existing building in Guam built in 1858 by the Spaniards to house the priest assigned to San Dimas Catholic Church. It demonstrates a style introduced by Spain and North Africa during the 1600s. The site, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is the only Spanish building still in use as a parish house.

63 Tanguisson Beach Park. One of the beautiful northern beaches on the island just outside Deddo is Tanguisson Beach Park, whose main features are picturesque mushroom-shaped rock formations off its shore. Although quite obscured by the Tanguisson power plant built by

Continued on Next Page



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

It's worth the hike to "find" what others call a "lost" pond, minutes from Hilaan Beach.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Suited up, the author gets ready for her first zip line experience at Zip Guam on the grounds of Hilton Guam Resort & Spa around her birthday.

From Page 14

the U.S. Navy in the 1960s, the beach park is popular among residents. It has barbecue pits for weekend—or weekday—picnics. The name may have been derived from the Chamorro word for parrot fish, “Tanggison,” a favorite of local spear fishermen.

While most visitors to the beach park go there by car or pickup truck, you can also try walking or hiking to it to break a sweat, starting from the road that also leads to Two Lovers Point. Continue down a side road past the power plant that opens to the sprawling beach park.

64 Hilaan Beach. Adjacent to Tanguisson Beach is the serene Hilaan Beach or Sagua Maguas, which requires

you to hike along the white sand beach. From Tanguisson Beach, hike some 2 miles north following the beach, around or over rock outcroppings. Walking on the sand burns as twice as much calorie per step as walking on hard ground but it was the least of my concerns that sunny day because the waters were rough and we had to wade in the water cautiously to go round sharp-edged rocks to get to our destination. They didn’t put the sign, “Hike and enjoy activities only if the ocean is calm” for nothing.

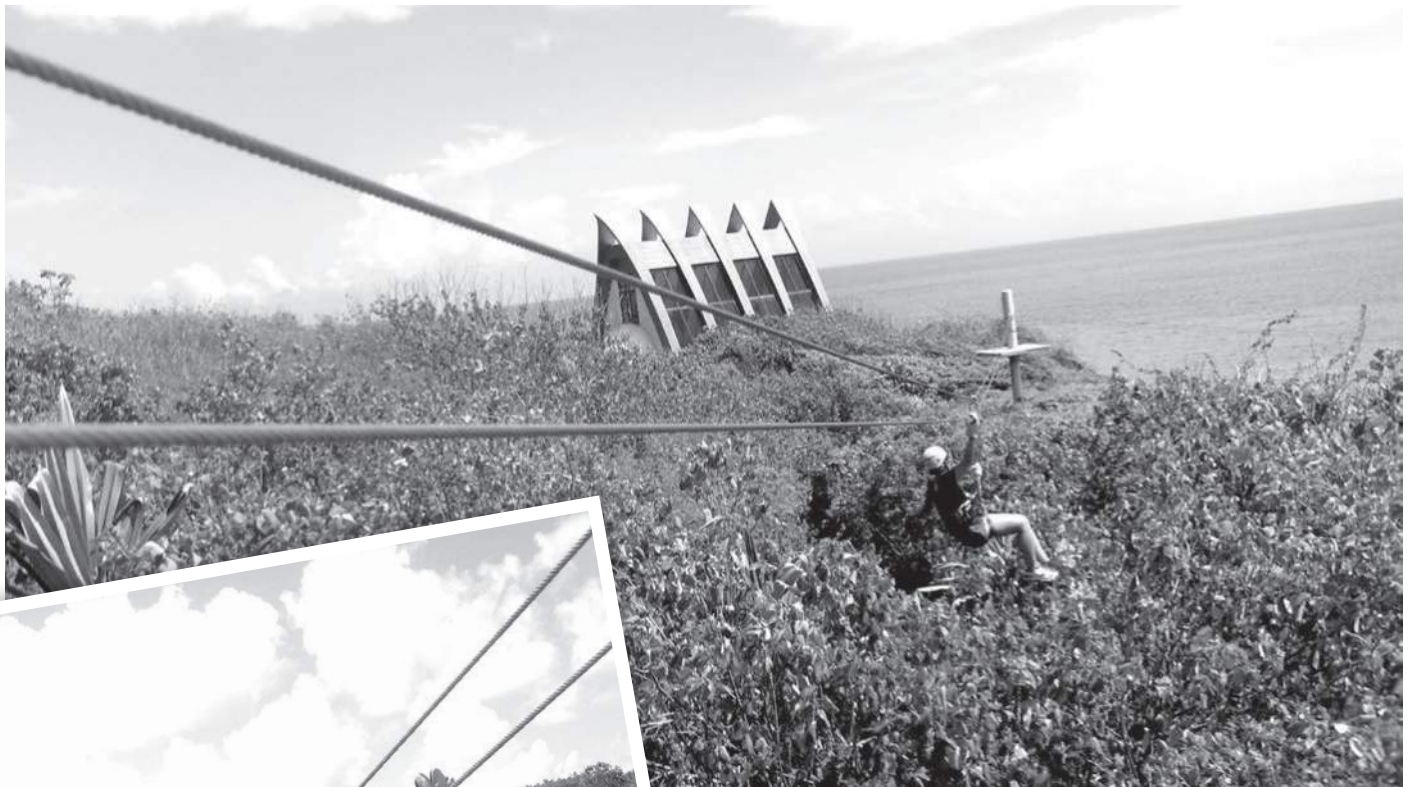
The hike ends at an aqua blue-water lagoon called Shark’s Hole, not because there are sharks there but because from atop, the lagoon is shaped like a shark. Hilaan Beach, with its white sand set against a picturesque mountain and green background, is a good spot for snorkeling,

swimming, fishing, picnicking, and camping. But don’t just stop there because there’s still more to explore in the area.

65 Lost pond. From Hilaan Beach, a trail leads toward the cliffs and a freshwater pond, or *hagoi*. It’s worth any Valentine’s Day hike with your loved one to find what others call the “lost” pond. Look for the pink and orange ribbons tied

to trees along the trail leading to the pond, so that you won’t get lost. While we didn’t get to see the nearby latte stones of the ancient village of Hilaan on that particular hike, we will go back for sure.

66 Village murals. By now, you must have seen a handful of colorful murals in the villages you have visited or passed by, part of the Guam



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A Zip Guam guide on the ocean side of the zip line offers a stunning view of sparkling Tumon Bay and beyond, from an entirely different perspective.

Visitors Bureau’s branding program “We are Guam.” The murals embody the Chamorro’s “Hafa Adai” spirit that has recently undergone a revitalization effort, thanks to GVB’s efforts in cooperation with village mayors, local businesses, schools, and residents.

Each of the village murals represents unique aspects of the village, whether it’s Sinajana, Hagatna, Piti, or Barrigada, for example. As GVB puts it, each piece of artwork tells a story about the people of Guam—“from the historical significance of Agat to the timeless culture that lives in Inarajan.”

67 Feast of lights. Instead of snow, there’s sand but Guam does sure know how to conjure up images of a typical winter holiday around Christmas and New Year, island-style. The Guam Visitors Bureau lit up the tourist district of Tumon with its holiday illumination project. Tourists and residents were treated to thousands of festive lights visible after sunset along the medians of San Vitores Road starting from the

Hilton Guam Resort & Spa all the way to the Westin Resort. This month, however, Tumon lit up with images in the shape of hearts and flowers to keep up with the Valentine season.

68 Christmas Village. This festival of lights drew thousands of residents and tourists during the 2013-2014 holidays, giving much credence to that island-style winter holiday feel. There’s Santa Claus with a surfboard, a carabao pulling a sleigh, to name a few. Perhaps nobody came to the village without snapping photos. It was an enjoyable spot to be, whether you’re a child or adult. We visited Christmas Village, across from the Hyatt, about an hour before ushering in the Year 2014, until it’s time to watch the fireworks from Ypao Beach. The Guam Visitor’s Bureau and the Guam Hotel and Restaurant Association used three barges floated out to the middle of Tumon Bay for the 15-minute fireworks, seen from a lot of points on the island. Now, are you ready for the next holidays?

To be concluded.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Instead of snow, there’s sand, but Guam does sure know how to conjure up images of a typical winter holiday best exemplified by the Christmas Village in Tumon during the 2013-2014 holidays.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The author clowns around with Santa Claus, clad in island wear and with a surf board, giving that island twist to a typical winter holiday scene at the Christmas Village in Tumon.

Guam sailors, residents build community garden

By **JESSE LEON GUERRERO**
JOINT REGION MARIANAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

DEDEDO, Guam—Sailors from Navy Munitions Command, East Asia Division Unit Guam partnered with the non-profit organization Island Girl Power to help build a community garden in Dededo on Feb. 22.

About a dozen sailors worked alongside other volunteers to clear land, dig holes and prepare soil for gardening.

“Anytime there’s an event to support the community, it’s great,” said Machinist’s Mate 2nd Class (SS) Ken Roberts, who helped coordinate the event. “We want to build this so it lasts forever, so knowing that I came here and contributed to this is an amazing feeling.”

The community garden is part of the organization’s efforts to unite the community and give the public a therapeutic and recreational outlet in an area where they can also grow their own produce for nutrition.

Island Girl Power Director Juanita Blaz said she appreciated the sailors’ involvement



U.S. NAVY/JESSE LEON GUERRERO

Gunner’s Mate 2nd Class Richard Roller, of Navy Munitions Command, East Asia Division Unit Guam, clears rocky ground during a gardening project at the Island Girl Power facilities in Dededo, Guam, Feb. 22.

and added that their participation was a great opportunity to promote positive role models.

“They were our go-to group for this project...we need to know that the volunteers we have do have the capability to get the job done,” she said. “They’re efficient and they have safety in mind, and they’re extremely wonderful to work with.”

Island Girl Power focuses on preventing sexual assault, substance abuse, suicide, and teen pregnancy among girls age 7-14. The organization’s activities promote a safe and caring environment for girls to connect with one another.

“They’re all about empowering young females to be independent and make good decisions,” said Mineman 3rd Class Brooke Bauer. “It feels good. We’re out here for a good cause.”

NMCEAD Unit Guam has supported numerous volunteer activities around Guam in the past, including cleanups at Talofofo Elementary School and Harry S. Truman Elementary School in Santa Rita.



Yeoman 2nd Class (SW) Traci Walker, of Navy Munitions Command, East Asia Division Unit Guam, handles a wheelbarrow as Island Girl Power Gardener Bill Ruffin provides guidance during a garden project at the non-profit organization’s facilities in Dededo, Guam, on Feb. 22.

U.S. NAVY/JESSE LEON GUERRERO

Mineman 2nd Class (SW) Jared Cruz, left, and Machinist’s Mate 2nd Class (SS/SW) Matthew Taylor, of Navy Munitions Command, East Asia Division Unit Guam, take turns working a section of a garden project at the Island Girl Power facilities in Dededo, Guam, on Feb. 22.

U.S. NAVY/JESSE LEON GUERRERO



Gunner’s Mate 3rd Class (SW) Dillon Lee, of Navy Munitions Command, East Asia Division Unit Guam, discusses quality control and safety issues with Island Girl Power representatives before the start of a construction project at the non-profit organization’s facilities in Dededo, Guam, on Feb. 22.

U.S. NAVY/JESSE LEON GUERRERO



Business

Mark Zuckerberg takes a long view with WhatsApp, Internet

NEW YORK (AP)—Mark Zuckerberg, known for his outsized ambitions for Facebook, is applying a similar long-term vision to bringing the Internet to the billions of people around the world who don't already have access.

The 29-year-old CEO of Facebook Inc. discussed long-term plans for a world in which everyone is able to get online during an on-stage interview at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, Spain on Monday.

It was Zuckerberg's most high-profile appearance yet at the world's largest mobile trade show, signaling Facebook's growing influence in mobile communications. The company's mobile footprint has only expanded with its decision to buy WhatsApp, the wildly popular smartphone messaging service, in a surprise deal announced last Wednesday.



Zuckerberg

While Zuckerberg spent most of his time discussing Internet.org, the ambitious project that aims to get the world online, he couldn't skirt questions about Facebook's decision to pay a staggering \$19 billion for WhatsApp.

"WhatsApp is a great company and a great fit for us," Zuckerberg said, calling the service the "most engaging" mobile application that has ever existed - and one that's well worth its price.

With 465 million monthly members, the service is growing at a faster pace than Facebook ever has and Zuckerberg believes WhatsApp is on track to reach a billion users. It's because of that potential, and not WhatsApp's current revenue stream, that Zuckerberg thinks WhatsApp is worth more than \$19 billion. In comparison, Twitter Inc. which has 241 million users, is worth roughly \$32

billion, based on its stock price Monday.

Even so, Facebook investors shouldn't expect a windfall from WhatsApp any time soon. Zuckerberg said the acquisition will allow the startup to focus on growing its user base—and not on making money—over the next five years or so.

That echoes earlier comments from WhatsApp CEO Jan Koum at the wireless show. Koum, who announced that WhatsApp will soon offer voice calling as it works to lure more users to its service, stressed that his company has no plans to add "marketing" or advertising to the service and that its staff of 55 is unlikely to grow much.

"We want to operate as a startup," Koum said.

Though they've known each other for years, Zuckerberg and Koum worked out the Facebook-WhatsApp deal in the 11 days before it was announced last Wednesday.

Taco Bell takes aim at McDonald's

NEW YORK (AP)—Egg McMuffin, meet the Waffle Taco.

Taco Bell is readying for the launch of its national breakfast menu on March 27, with items such as the A.M. Crunchwrap designed to appeal to its fan base of younger men. And the chain says breakfast will be available until 11 a.m.—a half-hour later than McDonald's offers its Egg McMuffins.

"We can turn the breakfast conversation into a two-horse race," Taco Bell President Brian Niccol said in an interview, noting that Taco Bell intends to be a "strong No. 2" after McDonald's.

McDonald's has long been the fast-food leader in the mornings, with its popular Sausage Biscuits, Hotcakes and other items pulling in roughly 20 percent of the company's U.S. sales. But the chain has been facing stiffer competition over the years, with places such as Starbucks and Subway looking for a piece of the growing breakfast business.

On March 4, for instance, Starbucks also plans to roll out new and revamped breakfast sandwiches, including a croissant sandwich with ham, cheese and egg.

It's not clear how Taco Bell's entry into breakfast will alter the fast-food landscape. Last year, an executive with Taco Bell's parent company Yum Brands said that breakfast accounted for about 4 percent of sales in locations where it was tested. But that was before the chain put its



AP

This undated product image provided by Taco Bell, shows the company's new waffle taco.

full marketing might behind the menu, he noted.

McDonald's, which has more than 14,000 U.S. locations, has also said it plans to step up its marketing of breakfast this year as new players enter the space. Separately, the president of McDonald's USA, Jeff Stratton, also told the Associated Press that the chain is in the early stages of looking at whether it can extend its breakfast hours.

Stratton noted that cutting off breakfast on the weekends at 10:30 a.m. "doesn't go very well" with people in their 20s and 30s in particular. Still, figuring out how to serve both breakfast and lunch poses an operational challenge given the limited kitchen space in restaurants.

In the meantime, Kevin Newell, U.S. brand and strategy officer for McDonald's, seemed unfazed in an interview late last week by

Taco Bell's breakfast plans.

"I think they're going to find that going into the breakfast business is not like what they're accustomed to, in terms of marketing," Newell said. The breakfast menus of the two chains only have one main offering that seems to go head-to-head, a sausage and egg burrito.

Taco Bell has been testing and tweaking its menu in a select number of its nearly 6,000 U.S. locations over the past several months. For the national rollout, the company's restaurants have had to hire additional staff, train existing staff and buy new equipment, including for the coffee it plans to start serving for the first time.

To keep operations simple at the start, Niccol said Taco Bell will start with drip coffee before expanding to specialty coffees such as lattes.

Nation

Chuck Hagel: The US military must shrink to face a new era

WASHINGTON (AP)—Looking beyond America's post-9/11 wars, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel on Monday proposed shrinking the Army to its smallest size in 74 years, closing bases and reshaping forces to confront a "more volatile, more unpredictable" world with a more nimble military.



Hagel

The nation can afford a smaller military so long as it retains a technological edge and the ability to respond on short notice to crises anywhere on

the globe, Hagel said. He said the priorities he outlined reflect a consensus view among America's military leaders, but

Republicans in Congress were quick to criticize some proposed changes.

In a speech at the one-year mark of his tenure as Pentagon chief, Hagel revealed many details of the defense spending

plan that will be part of the 2015 budget that President Barack Obama will submit to Congress next week. Hagel described it as the first Pentagon budget to fully reflect the na-

tion's transition from 13 years of war.

At the core of his plan is the notion that after wars in Iraq and Afghanistan that proved longer and more costly than foreseen, the U.S. military will no longer be sized to conduct large and protracted ground wars. It will put more emphasis on versatile, agile forces that can project power over great distances, including in Asia.

Hagel stressed that such changes entail risk. He said, "We are entering an era where American dominance on the seas, in the skies and in space can no longer be taken for granted."

Pressure mounts over Arizona bill opposed by gays

PHOENIX (AP)—Republican Gov. Jan Brewer faced intensifying pressure Monday from CEOs, politicians in Washington and state lawmakers in her own party to veto a bill that would allow business owners with strongly held religious beliefs to deny service to gays and lesbians.

Senate Bill 1062 has set off a political firestorm since the Arizona Legislature passed it last week, with critics denouncing the measure as blatantly discriminatory and embarrassing to the state.

The chorus of opposition has grown each day, and on Monday, three state senators who voted in favor of the bill changed course and said they

oppose it. U.S. Sen. John McCain asked Brewer to veto the measure, as did Apple Inc. and the CEO of American Airlines Group Inc.

State Sens. Bob Worsley, Adam Driggs and Steve Pierce sent their letter urging a veto just days after they joined the entire 17-member Senate GOP caucus in voting for the bill.

"I think laws are (already) on the books that we need, and have now seen the ramifications of my vote," Worsley told The Associated Press. "I feel very bad, and it was a mistake."

With the three GOP senators joining all 13 Senate Democrats in opposition, there would be enough votes

to defeat the measure in a re-vote. But too much time has passed to allow for reconsideration, and the bill was sent to Brewer in a routine transmittal Monday that was accompanied by "boos" from Senate Democrats.

Brewer now has five working days to sign or veto the bill. She returns from governors association meetings in Washington on Tuesday afternoon.

The governor doesn't comment on pending legislation, but she vetoed a similar measure last year. That action, however, came during an unrelated political standoff, and it's unclear whether she would support or reject this plan.

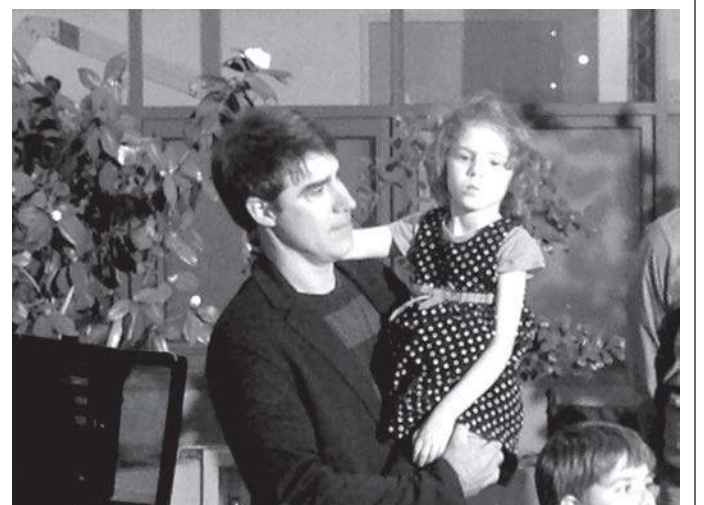
Polio-like illnesses called a 'rare phenomenon'

STANFORD, Calif. (AP)—More than a dozen children in California have developed an extremely rare, polio-like syndrome within the past year that within days paralyzed one or more of the children's arms or legs, Stanford University researchers say.

The illness is still being investigated and appears to be very unusual, but Dr. Keith Van Haren at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford University warned Monday that any child showing a sudden onset of weakness in their limbs or symptoms of paralysis should be immediately seen by a doctor.

"The disease resembles but is not the same as polio," he said. "But this is serious. Most of the children we've seen so far have not recovered use of their arm or their leg."

But doctors are not sure if it's a virus or something else, he said. Van Haren said he has studied five cases from Monterey up through the San



AP

In this photo taken with a mobile phone, Jeff Jarvis of Berkeley, Calif., holds his 4-year-old daughter, Sofia Jarvis, during a news conference at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford University on Monday, Feb. 24, 2014, in Palo Alto, Calif.

Francisco Bay Area, including two that were identified as the disease enterovirus-68, which is from the same family as the polio viruses. He said there have been about 20 cases statewide.

"We want to temper the concern, because at the mo-

ment, it does not appear to represent a major epidemic but only a very rare phenomenon," he said, noting similar outbreaks in Asia and Australia.

But for some children, like Sofia Jarvis, 4, of Berkeley, rare doesn't mean safe.

Asia

Children become the latest victims of Thailand violence



Tayakorn Yos-ubon, left, and Noppawan Chairat, right, the parents of two children killed in Sunday's bomb attack on an anti-government protest site, embrace each other as they wait for their children's bodies at a hospital in Bangkok Monday, Feb. 24, 2014.

BANGKOK (AP)—The father grimaced and wept as he struggled to contain his grief at the death of his two children in a grenade attack during a weekend trip to a mall in downtown Bangkok—the latest casualties in Thailand's months of political crisis.

"I'm asking and pleading to every side to let my children be the last case (of violence) on Thai soil," Tayakorn Yos-ubon, 33, said, his voice shaking, before retrieving their bodies from the morgue Monday.

Korawit, 4, and his sister Patcharakorn, 6, were not part of the anti-government demonstrations. They had piled into a three-wheeled "tuk-tuk" taxi after eating at a KFC with their cousin and an aunt when the attack occurred Sunday near a busy intersection occupied by the protesters.

The siblings, along with a 5-year-old girl who died Saturday in another attack on a rally site in the eastern province of Trat, are the first children to be killed in the country's recent political unrest, which has claimed at least 20 lives and injured more than 700 since November. Police have not arrested any suspects in the weekend attacks.

The Thai public has recoiled in shock over the children's deaths, and yet there seems to be no sign that either side in the impasse is softening its position. City residents have braced for more violence.

"We don't know who did it but it shouldn't have happened

to children, my children," Tayakorn said.

"I didn't expect my kids to be brilliant. I just wanted them to be good people and to be able to get by in this society," he added. "But this society, right now, is very cruel. Very, very cruel."

The 9-year-old boy cousin suffered brain and lung damage and is in intensive care.

UNICEF on Monday called for the protest zones to be made "child-free" and urged parents to keep their children away.

UNICEF "condemns the violence that resulted in these tragic and senseless deaths and injuries to children," it said in a statement.

The violence continued Monday night as a grenade was fired from an M79 launcher, apparently at the headquarters of the opposition Democrat Party, which is closely allied with the militant anti-government protest movement. Explosive ordnance disposal police Col. Kamthorn Auicharoen said there were no injuries but a car was damaged.

A police officer who was shot in the head during a clash with anti-government protesters last week also died Monday.

The protesters, mostly representing the urban elite and those in the south, are pressing for the resignation of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra. They want her to be replaced by an appointed interim government to implement reforms they say are needed to fight corruption and permanently remove Yingluck's wealthy family from

politics.

Thailand has seen sometimes-violent political conflict since 2006, when then-Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, Yingluck's brother, was ousted by a military coup after being accused of corruption and abuse of power. Thaksin's supporters and opponents have since taken to the streets for extended periods in an ongoing power struggle.

Yingluck, who has strong backing from the rural poor majority, condemned the weekend attacks and said the country would suffer more pain if the two sides don't negotiate.

"It's time we make an effort to talk together, and each side must stop turning away from the other," she said, adding that she has a duty to remain in her job until a new government is chosen.

The protesters have refused to negotiate.

The country's army commander-in-chief also urged a negotiated solution to the standoff, saying the military would not intervene despite the violence.

"What needs to be done urgently is for each side to talk and discuss, to make sure they will receive fairness and move toward a solution methodically and peacefully," Gen. Prayuth Chan-ocha said.

In 2010, pro-Thaksin "Red Shirts" occupied part of Bangkok for two months and were assisted by their own armed militia. More than 90 people were killed in violent confrontations, with the army finally sweeping away the demonstrators.

Hernandez says it was the first time a water cannon was fired at Filipino fishermen in disputed waters.

China claims virtually the whole South China Sea, believed to be rich in oil and gas and one of the world's busiest sea lanes.

said Tuesday that a diplomatic protest had been handed to Beijing's charge d'affaires over the Jan. 27 incident at Scarborough Shoal, a fishing area claimed by the Philippines and China.

President Benigno Aquino III says his government wants an explanation from Beijing.

PH protest Chinese water cannon attack

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines has called in a Chinese envoy to protest what it says was the firing of a water cannon by a Chinese government vessel on Filipino fishermen in a disputed shoal in the South China Sea.

Foreign Affairs Department spokesman Raul Hernandez

World

Ukraine issues arrest warrant vs missing leader Yanukovych

SEVASTOPOL, Ukraine (AP)—With Viktor Yanukovych on the run, Ukraine's interim government drew up a warrant Monday for the fugitive president's arrest in the killing of anti-government protesters last week, while Russia issued its strongest condemnation yet of the new leaders in Kiev, deriding them as "Kalashnikov-toting people in black masks."

Parliament speaker Oleksandr Turchinov, the interim president, moved quickly to open a dialogue with the West, saying at a meeting with European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton that the course toward closer integration with Europe and financial assistance from the EU were "key factors of stable and democratic development of Ukraine."

In a statement released by his office, Turchinov said Ukraine and the EU should immediately revisit the closer ties that Yanukovych abandoned in November in favor of a \$15 billion bailout loan from Russia that set off a wave of protests. Within weeks, the protests expanded to include outrage over corruption and human rights abuses, leading to calls for Yanukovych's resignation.

Yanukovych, who fled Kiev on Saturday after the opposition took over government buildings, has reportedly gone to the Black Sea peninsula of Crimea, a pro-Russia area.

Calls are mounting in Ukraine to put Yanukovych on trial after a tumultuous presidency in which he amassed powers, enriched his allies and family, and cracked down on protesters. Anger boiled over last week after 82 people, primarily demonstrators, were killed in clashes with security forces in the bloodiest violence in Ukraine's post-Soviet history.

Acting Interior Minister Arsen Avakhov said on his official Facebook page that a warrant has been issued for the arrest of Yanukovych and several other officials for the "mass killing of civilians."

Yanukovych's last public appearance was in a televised interview Saturday from Kharkiv in eastern Ukraine, a base of his support, where he insisted he was still president and would not leave the country.

Drug lord 'El Chapo' Guzman charged in Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexican authorities have set in motion a legal process that makes it unlikely drug kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman will soon face U.S. cases also pending against him.

The Federal Judicial Council said the hemisphere's most powerful drug lord had been formally charged under a 2009 Mexican indictment for cocaine trafficking, an action that could start put him on path for a trial that would put any extradition

request on the back burn.

A judge has until Tuesday to decide whether a trial is warranted. Guzman, who is being held in a maximum security prison west of Mexico City, could then appeal the judge's decision, a process that typically takes weeks or months.

Also on Monday, Guzman's lawyers filed a petition asking a court for an injunction to block any extradition request from the United States. In the past, similar appeals by

Uganda president signs harsh anti-gay law

ENTEBBE, Uganda (AP)—Uganda's president on Monday signed an anti-gay bill that punishes gay sex with up to life in prison, a measure likely to send Uganda's beleaguered gay community further underground as the police try to implement it amid fevered anti-gay sentiment across the country.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni said the bill, which goes into effect immediately, was needed because the West is promoting homosexuality in Africa.

Museveni may have defied Western pressure to shelve the bill, four years and many versions after it was introduced, but his move—likely to galvanize support ahead of presidential elections—pleased many Ugandans who repeatedly urged him to sign the legislation.

Nigeria's president similarly signed an anti-gay bill into law just over a month ago, sparking increased violence against gays who already were persecuted in mob attacks. Some

other drug suspects have taken months, and sometimes years, to resolve.

And before considering any extradition request that might come from the U.S., Mexican officials also must weigh whether to renew other charges against Guzman. When he escaped from a Mexican prison in 2001 he was serving convictions for criminal association and bribery, and he was awaiting trial on charges of murder and drug trafficking.

watchdog groups warn a similar backlash of violence may occur in Uganda.

"Experience from other jurisdictions with similarly draconian laws, such as Nigeria or Russia, indicates that their implementation is often followed by a surge in violence against individuals thought to be lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender," the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission said in a statement Monday.

Who is running Ukraine?

Ukraine's acting government issued an arrest warrant for President Viktor Yanukovych, accusing him of mass crimes against the protesters. A look at players vying for leadership of the new Ukrainian government:

Interim president Oleksandr Turchinov



Acting president after Viktor Yanukovych was ousted on Feb. 21; held number of key positions in the "Orange Revolution" government; deputy leader of the pro-Western Fatherland Party and long-time opponent of Yanukovych

Acting interior minister Arsen Avakhov



The acting interior minister; elected to Ukrainian parliament in 2012 as member of the Fatherland Party; has said that a criminal case has been opened against Yanukovych and other officials over "mass murder of peaceful citizens"

Parliamentary leader of Fatherland Party Arseniy Yatsenyuk



An ally of Yulia Tymoshenko and the main negotiator during the protests; seen as a possible prime minister; lost a bid for president in 2010; held previous government posts as foreign minister and deputy governor of the central bank

Democratic Alliance for Reforms (UDAR) leader Vitali Klitschko



Former heavyweight boxing champion and one of the main opposition leaders; leaders during the protests; accused Yanukovych of undermining ties with the EU; expected to run for president

Svoboda Party leader Oleh Tyahnybok



Leader of this far-right party, founded as the Social-Nationalist Party; expelled from parliament in 2004 for saying the country was controlled by a "Muscovite-Jewish mafia"; maintains the party is not anti-Semitic nor xenophobic; was a key protest leader

Former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko



Jailed in 2011 for alleged abuse of power; released as the opposition took control of parliament; leader of the "Orange Revolution" protests that overturned Yanukovych's 2004 election as president; now in poor health; has ruled out running for prime minister

Source: BBC, MCT Photo Service

Graphic: Pat Carr

© 2014 MCT

Campus Life

Hopwood students shine brighter in Math in first semester

The first semester has been a big leap for Hopwood Junior High School students in MathCourt and Math Olympiads.

In the first meet, held on Oct. 12 at Kagman High School of this year's Middle School Math-court Competition, Hopwood registered about 96 participants and went home with 20 ribbons. During the second meet held on Nov. 9 at Hopwood Junior High School, Hopwood registered about 90 students and got 13 ribbons. The winners of the first and second meet qualified for the Regional Meet. Twenty-six Hopwood students advanced to the Regional Meet where they competed with other 74 public and private school middle school students. The 26 students are:

7TH GRADE: Christian Batal-lones, Jeremiah Fernandez, Limbert Guiao, Natalie Montano, Ysabella Sacramento, Mari-elle Sambilay, Marchie Sayas, Mark Villanueva, and Karen Hou Yin Xu,

8TH GRADE: Jessica Andebor, Miguel Aninon, Roland Bala-jadia, Amelito Dalusong Jr, Joseph Ejercito, Melvin Hermoso, Helen Huang, Anna Kang, Ayeon Lee, Xuchong Steven Liang, Daniel Montano, Arcen Obando, Ma. Chrizelle Omo-toy, Isabel Palacios, Ninfa Lyn



Mathcourt participants pose with their coaches and Hopwood's administration.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rabago, Chloe Salvosa, and John Robert Tam.

Congratulations to the following MathCourt State Cham-pionship qualifiers and winners! (Dec. 21, 2013 Eucon Interna-tional School)

Qualifiers / Finalists

1. Xuchong Steven Liang
2. Anna Kang
3. John Robert Tam
4. Helen Huang
5. Ninfa Lyn Rabago
6. Miguel Aninon
7. Ayeon Lee
8. Roland Baljadia
9. Amelito Dalusong Jr.
10. Joseph Ejercito
11. Jessica Andebor

12. Isabel Palacios

Team Round Winners

- Team Hilitai One -
GOLD medal
1. Xuchong Steven Liang
 2. Anna Kang
 3. John Robert Tam
 4. Helen Huang

Team Hilitai Three -
BRONZE Medal

1. Ninfa Lyn Rabago
2. Miguel Aninon
3. Ayeon Lee

Individual Round CNMI MIDDLE SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

1. Ayeon Lee -
BRONZE Medal

Students who participated in MathCourt partook in prepa-rations that included after-school practice on Mondays and Wednesdays as well as an hourly practice on Satur-day, which ran from 3:30pm to 4:30pm. Teachers and vol-unteers took time from their schedules and were devoted to ensuring that these stu-dents were fully prepared for the competitions. The coaches were: Aida Gagaring, Irish Ann San Nicolas, Changwhan Jang, Victoria Nishida, Sancho Escobar, Marilyn Mendoza, Maria Mettao and Jesse Kilili Sablan. During practices, the coaches also provided snacks

for the students.

The MathCourt participants and advisors were met with great support from the admin-istrative office. Principal Jonas Barcinas, VP Epi Cabrera, VP Jocelyn Manibusan, VP Lynn Mendiola, and Admin Officer Ruby Hocog provided the stu-dents with the aid to allow our students to truly shine in these competitions by approving Sat-urday practices, supplying the students with transportation to the venues, and contributing to the purchase of T-shirts for re-gional qualifiers.

In the meantime, Hopwood Ju-nior High School also made huge leaps in Math Olympiads. A total

of 36 students from both grade levels have been competing in five tests for this academic school year. This is a national competi-tion with questions that are com-ing from the U.S. mainland.

The 36 students are Daniel Montano, Sophia Lee, Jeremiah Fernandez, John Robert Tam,, Amelito Dalusong Jr., Lim-berth Guiao, Anna Kang, Cath-rine Roque, Melvin Hermoso, Ayeon Lee, John Michael Cos-tales, Joanna Yutuc, Christian Batallones, Steven Liang, Cha-risse Ramos, Jacob Teregeyo, Bernadette Javier, Mark Vil-lanueva, Kathleen Lacanilao, Karen Xu, Ma. Chrizelle Omo-toy, Leugim Elayda, Timothy Villanueva, Joseph Ejercito, Joyce Nisola, John Lu, Mei Lin, Ysabella Sacramento, Timo-thy Retirado, Natalie Montano, Miguel Aninon, Francheska Fauni, Ryan Relucio, Soledad Camacho, Chloe Salvosa, and Roland Balajadia.

We would like to thank all the parents, teachers, and staff for their utmost support to our students and volunteers who have worked very hard. May Hopwood continue to shine in the area of math as well as whatever they may endeavor to accomplish in the future! Go Hopwood! (PR)

In Celebration of His New Life

†ALDRIN MIGUEL KILELEMAN HOWARD

Born to this life: September 14, 2012
Called to Eternal Life: February 20, 2014

In His New Life He Now Joins His:

Grandfathers: †Grafton Lee Howard Jr.
†Estevan "SK" Igisaiar Kileleman
Uncle: †Adrian Noel Cabrera Kileleman

His Memories Will Forever Live In The Hearts Of His:

Parents: Grafton Lee Howard III
Sharon Lei Cabrera Kileleman
Siblings: Naturalee Lucia Howard
Gilbert Cabrera Kileleman
Adrian Cabrera Kileleman
Steven Cabrera Kileleman
Grafton Kileleman Howard Jr.
Grandmother: Irma Antonia Algarin
Grandparents: Elroy Jr. and Millan "Olank" Cabrera Hill
Godparents: Joel B. Tudela
Cora T. Kileleman

Aunts/Uncles: John Arthur Howard Algarin (Rayna Joy)
Keiran Scott Howard
Myrna Cabrera Kileleman and Jose Taitano (Venna Jo, Zoie)
Daryl Cabrera and Anniesha Torres Kileleman (Alaysha)
Eloy Cabrera and Maria Camacho Kileleman (Daryl)
Esco Francine Cabrera Kileleman and Lawrence Aldan

He is additionally survived by numerous aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, god brothers, god sister, cousins, relatives and friends...

Daily Mass of Intention is being celebrated each evening at 6:00 p.m. at San Vicente Church.

Funeral service will be held on Friday, February 28, 2014. Our beloved †Aldrin will be escorted from Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation to Borja Funeral Home at 7:30 a.m. Viewing and last respects will begin at 8:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at San Vicente Church at 10:00 a.m. followed by Interment Service at Tanapag Cemetery.

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghilisou and Gracias

Grafton L. Howard III and Sharon Cabrera Kileleman
Children and Family

Message of Appreciation

We, the family of the late

†Manuel Lizama Cruz

would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to all our family, friends, and acquaint-ances, for the genuine words of sympathy, the unselfish assistance, and all the heartfelt donations you all have extended to us during our time of sorrow and need, but most especially for your presence, thoughts, and prayers for our dearly beloved father, †MANUEL. There is no other words, more virtuous, we can honestly find to sincerely and deeply express our most profound appreciation for us to extend to all of you, but only this, "UN SEN DANGKULO NA SI YU'US MA'ASE, YA NI NGAI'AN BAI EN FAN MALEFA NU HAMYU TODOS; THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH AND WE WILL NEVER FORGET YOU ALL".

In addition, we are respectfully extending a special thank youi and heartfelt Si Yu'us Ma'ase to Pale Jesse Reyes for his blessing and presiding during the Christian Burial Mass, our techa, Mrs. Rosa Aquiningoc for leading the nightly rosary and her prayers, our Dela Cruz, San Nicolas, Iguel, Lieto, and Ngirarois family their most passionat and enthusiastic assistance.

Un sen dangkulo na si Yu'us Ma'ase and thank you so much to all.

THE FAMILY



Life & Style

Albom to help rebuild libraries in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—U.S. author Mitch Albom has launched a drive to rebuild 10 libraries in Tacloban, a central Philippine city ravaged by Typhoon Haiyan in November.

National Book Store Foundation, his Philippine partner in the project, said Tuesday that

Albom has pledged to raise \$160,000, starting with his own contribution of \$10,000 for the

libraries.

He has enlisted famous writers to contribute their books to the Donated Reading for Youth of the Philippines project, including Stephen King, Amy Tan and JK Rowling.

The author of the best-selling memoir “Tuesdays with Mor-

rie” visited Tacloban on Monday and also donated 40 boats to help fishermen in the region.

He said during a visit to a damaged school in Tacloban that he was blessed to have many Filipino readers, and that he wanted to do something to help.

“I’ve seen my own books pulled from the flood-damaged homes, moldy, discolored, yet brought to me to sign,” Albom said. “It’s incredible and heart-warming.”

Many areas of Tacloban were flattened by the powerful typhoon and the tsunami-like

storm surge it unleashed.

National Book Store Foundation has said it will match funds raised by Albom on a dollar for dollar basis until the goal is met.

Albom is on a promotional tour in Manila for his latest book, “The First Phone Call from Heaven.”

‘Ghostbuster’ writer, actor Harold Ramis dies



AP
In an undated file photo, Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd, center, and Harold Ramis, right, appear in a scene from the 1984 movie “Ghostbusters.”

CHICAGO (AP)—Harold Ramis, the bespectacled “Ghostbusters” sidekick to Bill Murray whose early grounding in live comedy led to blockbuster movies such as “National Lampoon’s Animal House,” “Caddyshack” and “Groundhog Day,” died Monday. He was 69.

Ramis, who suffered for several years from an autoimmune disease that caused inflammation and damage to his blood vessels, died at his home in the Chicago suburbs, surrounded by family and friends, his talent agency said.

The writer-director-actor quietly and often off-screen created an unparalleled and hugely influential body of laughs in a filmography that includes some of the most beloved and widely quoted comedy classics of the last 30 years.

His death rattled a modern comedy world Ramis helped build. His legacy as a father figure to generations of comedians was appropriately captured in Judd Apatow’s “Knocked Up,” in which Ramis was cast as Seth Rogen’s father, he said, “because we all saw him as the dream dad.”

“Harold Ramis made almost every movie which made me want to become a comedy director,” Apatow said. “These films are the touchstones of our lives.”

Chevy Chase, whom Ramis directed in “Caddyshack” and “National Lampoon’s Vacation,” called him “a great man who shunned unnecessary Hollywood-type publicity.”

“It was Harold who acted out and gave me the inspiration for the character of Clark Griswold” in the National Lampoon Vacation movies, Chase said Monday. “I was really copying Harold’s impression of Clark.”

Admittedly lacking the dashing leading-man looks of some of his peers, Ramis was memorably nebbishy: curly haired, gangly and bespectacled. He played Ghostbuster scientist Egon Spengler (naturally, the one with all the ideas), and Bill Murray’s Army recruit buddy in “Stripes.”

But the Chicago native and early member of the improv comedy troupe Second City was a far larger force behind the camera. The intellectual Ramis was the Zen master to a wild, improvising comic storm that included Murray, John Belushi, Chase and Dan Aykroyd.

He co-wrote and directed “Caddyshack,” “Groundhog Day,” and “Analyze This.” He helped pen “Meatballs,” “Stripes” and “Ghostbusters.”

Ramis could reasonably be credited with making more people roll in the aisles from the late ‘70s to the early ‘90s than almost anyone else. “He earned his keep on this planet,” Murray said in a statement.

With a Baby Boomer countercultural bent, Ramis—who escaped Vietnam service, he claimed, by checking every box on the medical-history form—pushed against institutions: the college dean of “Animal House,” the country club mem-

bers of “Caddyshack,” the drill sergeant of “Stripes.”

Ramis, who became a Buddhist in midlife, was known to have a spiritual pull, on full display in the wry but earnest existentialism of “Groundhog Day” (1993), in which Murray re-lives a day until he finally gets it right. His “Ghostbusters” co-star and Second City mate Aykroyd said: “May he now get the answers he was always seeking.”

The son of Chicago shopkeepers, Ramis was born Nov. 21, 1944. After graduating from Washington University in St. Louis, he briefly worked in a mental institution. He often said, seriously, that the experience helped prepare him for working with actors.

Ramis would help recalibrate the epicenter of American comedy at Second City, which he joined in 1969. He was soon followed by many of his later collaborators: John Belushi (“Animal House”), Murray and Aykroyd. In 1976, he became head writer for the Canadian-based comedy show “Second City Television,” or “SCTV.”

Chicago, he later said in the book of interviews “And Here’s the Kicker,” conditioned him to living “slightly on the outside of the mainstream.”

“New York and L.A. were the real centers of culture in America, and we were kind of a side-show,” said Ramis. “There’s always more comedy in being alienated than in fitting in.”

Ready to rock you: Imagine Dragons talk success

By MESFIN FEKADU
AP MUSIC WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Imagine Dragons’ Dan Reynolds has been enjoying rock stardom from a relevantly sane place.

Despite recently winning a Grammy, reaching double platinum status with its debut album and having three international hits, some folks still wonder who—or what—the band is.

“People are still saying, ‘Who are Imagine Dragons? Like, why do I keep hearing this name?’” Reynolds said. “I think it is a pretty strange thing to live in this day and age where we’re selling all these records and it’s all going well, and we have still kept some anonymity. I think, in our case, it’s something we kind of cherish.”

Reynolds and his bandmates may not be able to blend in for too long. Imagine Dragons set a record last week on the Billboard Hot 100 with the anthem-like rock jam, “Radioactive,” which has spent 77 weeks on the chart, beating Jason Mraz’s 76-week run in 2009 with “I’m Yours.”

Reynolds, 26, talked recently about the band’s hits, new music, arena tour and why it might not release a fourth single following the hit “Demons,” “It’s Time” and “Radioactive,” which won the best rock performance Grammy and has sold 6.6 million tracks.

AP: The past year has been insane for the band, so how do you feel when people say they don’t know who the band is?

Reynolds: That’s something that comes with time. We’ve had some opportunities to have some major exposure visually and to kind of get our personalities out there more that we turned down just because I feel like the way that I would want people to find out who we are is organically ... and through their own interest and their own curiosity, rather than seeing some commercial or movie.

... I remember growing up listening to U2 and I didn’t even know what Bono looked like. I didn’t even know his name. It got to a point where I was invested so much that I wanted to know who Bono was—not to say that I would compare us to U2 because that’s one of my favorite bands of all-time and it feels, like, sacrilegious.

AP: How does it feel to set this Billboard record?

Reynolds: I don’t really know how to comprehend it, I think. I feel like this last year has been full of events that I don’t know if I’ll fully understand till years down the road. I think right now I’m a little overwhelmed by it all.

AP: “Radioactive” has had a slow climb on the charts, versus other contemporary hits that debut high and fall shortly after.

Reynolds: That’s been the most important part of the band from the beginning. ... With our radio team, we were never like, “This is the single! Push this to road!” It literally just started off on its own. ... We never wanted to skip steps. We always wanted to grow slowly and take our time with things.

AP: Will the band release a fourth single from “Night Visions”?

Reynolds: I don’t think so. ... At this point, we’re trying to pull back from the reins and say, “OK, we don’t want to overkill the record on people’s ears and force it upon people to some extent.” I feel like it’s been on the radio so much that it’s almost been overwhelming to us.

AP: Have you been recording new music?

Reynolds: We’ve really been recording on the road ... When we get home from tour, we’ll comb through those demos and pick out the best ones and bring them to a live band setting. ... Right now, I have a good 40 or 50 demos that I’ve been writing over the last two years.



AP
In this Nov. 24, 2013 file photo, from left, Ben McKee, Dan Reynolds, Wayne Sermon, and Daniel Platzman of the musical group Imagine Dragons arrive at the American Music Awards at the Nokia Theatre L.A. Live, in Los Angeles.

AP: Will the album come out this year?

Reynolds: We want to take a little time off. ... Sometimes you can put out an album that’s maybe not as good as it could have been because you rushed it.

AP: The band has toured a lot in the last year. How’s the arena tour different?

Reynolds: You come and you understand what Imagine Dragons is about, and what the vision is about, and what the feeling is and what the visual is, instead of just us coming and playing our 10 songs like they sound on our CD. I feel like my favorite bands growing up, I went to their concerts and walked away feeling like I was part of that band and that experience.

AP: Your wife is the lead singer of the band Nico Vega. Has your 18-month-old daughter caught the music bug?

Reynolds: She’s definitely singing some Ariel, you know, some “Little Mermaid” here and there. ... She’ll probably get interested in music. ... I don’t know if I’m going to let her get into that industry. ... But maybe at the end of the day, she’ll just do it anyways. My mom didn’t want me to do it and I did it.

Robin Thicke, Paula Patton ending marriage

NEW YORK (AP)—Robin Thicke and Paula Patton are calling it quits.

A representative for the actress confirmed Monday that she and the singer are ending their nine-year marriage.

"We will always love each other and be best friends, however, we have mutually decided to separate at this time," the entertainers said in a joint statement.

Thicke, 36, and Patton, 38, met when they were teenagers. They had a son, Julian Fuego Thicke, in 2010.

Robin Thicke had a breakthrough last year with the international hit "Blurred Lines," which was nominated for several Grammy Awards. Patton has appeared in the films "Mission: Impossible—Ghost Protocol," "Idlewild," and "Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire."

Patton also appeared in Thicke's music videos, including "Lost Without U" and "Love After War." She was the inspiration behind most of his



In this Feb. 24, 2013 file photo, Paula Patton and Robin Thicke arrive at the 2013 Vanity Fair Oscars Viewing and After Party at the Sunset Plaza Hotel in West Hollywood, Calif.

music, and she appeared on "A Beautiful World." Their separation was first reported on People magazine's website.

Judge sets deadline for Bieber video objections

MIAMI (AP)—A Florida judge has set a Wednesday afternoon deadline for Justin Bieber's lawyers to file objections to the release of police video taken after the singer's Jan. 23 arrest in Miami Beach.

Miami-Dade County Judge William Altfeld ruled Monday that any objections to additional video releases must be filed by 2 p.m. Wednesday. Altfeld is already withholding for review four clips of police video that depict Bieber urinating into a cup for a drug test.

Bieber's attorneys want to review the entire 10 hours to determine if other images show the 19-year-old singer in various states of undress.

The Associated Press and other news media organizations are seeking the video under Florida's public records law.

Bieber has pleaded not guilty to driving under the influence, resisting arrest and invalid-license charges.

Baby on the way for Jimmy Kimmel and new wife

NEW YORK (AP)—Jimmy Fallon may be the late night host with a new show, but Jimmy Kimmel has reason to celebrate, too.

Kimmel and his wife Molly McNearney are expecting their first child together, his representative Lewis Kay confirmed Monday.

The TV personality first made the announcement during a taping of "The Ellen DeGeneres

Show," airing Wednesday.

The 46-year-old Kimmel already has two children, a 20-year-old son and 22-year-old daughter, from a previous marriage.

It will be 35-year-old McNearney's first baby.

The couple got married last July.

McNearney also is the co-head writer of "Jimmy Kimmel Live."

Actor Alec Baldwin contemplates leaving NYC



This July 22, 2013 file photo shows actor Alec Baldwin at the premiere of "Blue Jasmine" in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Alec Baldwin says he misses the days when New Yorkers signaled their appreciation of celebrities briefly and politely while taking care to maintain privacy.

The 55-year-old actor writes in New York magazine that he "probably" needs to move out of the nation's largest city.

Baldwin says he has a happy home for the first time in his adult life. He says he's considering Los Angeles, living insulated behind a gate with his wife and their child.

A lot of the article deals with comments that Baldwin says were misquoted or misinterpreted. Among other things, he details strongly worded evidence that he's not homophobic.

Baldwin says he realizes he "could have done things differently."

He apologizes if he's "offended anyone along the way."

Amanda Bynes pleads no contest to reckless driving

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Actress Amanda Bynes has pleaded no contest to alcohol-related reckless driving after she clipped a Los Angeles County sheriff's patrol car.

District attorney's spokeswoman Jane Robison says Bynes entered the plea Monday through her lawyer. The former

teen star was sentenced to three years of probation and three months of attending alcohol education classes.

Bynes was arrested in April of 2012 on suspicion of drunken driving after the cruiser was hit in West Hollywood.

The 27-year-old actress already is on probation for

driving with a suspended license. She received psychiatric treatment last year after authorities said she started a fire in the driveway of a Ventura County home.

Bynes also was ordered to get counseling after she allegedly threw a bong out of a Manhattan window last year.



In this Jan. 31, 2014 file photo, talk show host Jimmy Kimmel and wife Molly McNearney attend "Howard Stern's Birthday Bash," presented by SiriusXM, at the Hammerstein Ballroom in New York.

Woman worries her gentle friend may harbor dark side

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I'm incredibly fond of my friend "Russell." He is always supportive, considerate and kind to me. However, I know that he is into S&M and this worries me, as I can't reconcile the two different people—a gentle person with someone wanting to dominate and possibly hurt a woman in bed.

Should I be worried that Russell is hiding a dark side that will eventually come out and ruin our friendship?

WORRIED FRIEND IN AUSTRALIA

Dear Abby

DEAR WORRIED: You and Russell must be very close friends if he is describing his sexual practices with you. My experts tell me that acting out on aggressive fantasies does not necessarily mean a person IS aggressive.

As long as your relationship remains platonic, what he does in the bedroom shouldn't affect it. But if you're considering taking your friendship with Russell to another level, it's important that you talk further about this. If this isn't something you're interested in exploring—and it isn't for everyone—then draw the line or move on.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 14-year-old girl, and my mother just got home from rehab. I have been living with my grandmother for a year and a half.

I want to tell my mother my feelings, but I don't want to hurt her. I love her, but I'm still not over what she has done. She is barely home. She has meetings, and she likes to stay with her boyfriend. I think it's too soon. She came home only a week ago. What do I do, Abby?

CONFUSED TEEN

DEAR CONFUSED: You have my sympathy. I hope your mother's rehabilitation will be successful. It's good that she is going to meetings, and I agree with you that it's too soon for her to be staying with her boyfriend.

However, she's unlikely to accept hearing it from you or me, which is why you should talk to your grandmother about your feelings. Your mother might accept it if she hears from your grandmother that should there be any "bumps" in her relationship with this man—and there usually are a few—that they could jeopardize her sobriety.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have a 19-month-old son, "Nicky." He stays at my in-laws' house most days while my husband and I work. Lately, I've noticed when I go to pick him up that Grandma and Grandpa like to give him "kiss attacks," where they hold him "hostage" and give him several kisses.

Sometimes he lets them, and it's not a problem. Other times he squirms, whines and tells them no. It's painful to watch, especially when they respond with, "I know you're not going to like this, but I'm going to do it anyway."

I think this is a huge violation of my son's boundaries. It teaches him he should just give in because nobody cares that he's uncomfortable. My husband thinks Nicky is too young to understand, and that it's not going to hurt him to have extra affection.

I'm an affectionate person who likes to hug and kiss my son, too, but if he's not in the mood, I let him be. Who is right?

LOVING MOMMY IN COLORADO

DEAR LOVING MOMMY: You are. Affection is something welcome. If you don't want it, it's not affection. The most significant issues in child development have to do with nurturing and building trust. However well meant, holding a child "hostage" is more a display of power than affection.

If your in-laws stopped "attacking," your son would be more likely to seek their affection when he wants it. A better way to demonstrate their love for him would be to do something creative, like draw a picture showing their affection for him.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

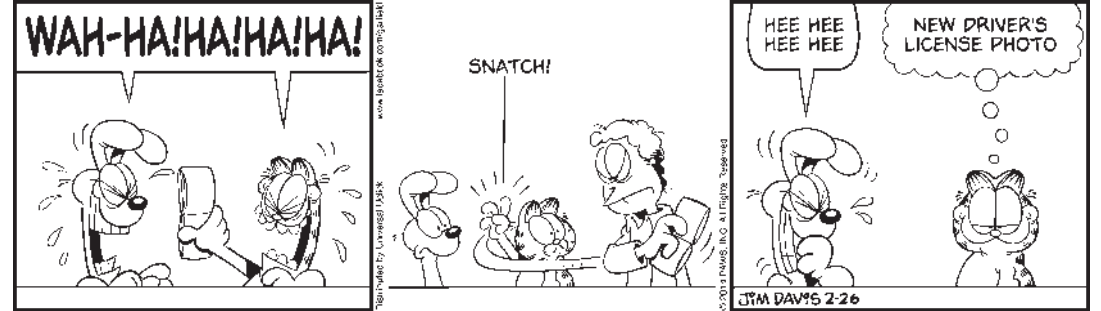
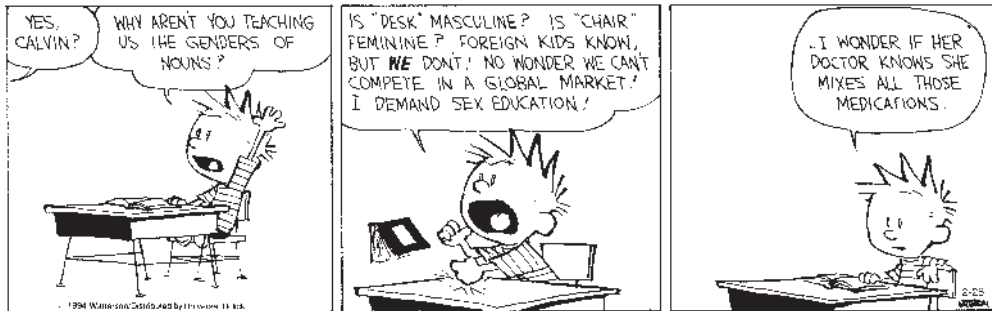
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Body powder
5 Party bowlful
8 Diving duck
12 Lotion additive
13 — pickle
14 Graceful young woman
15 Vendor
17 Caspian Sea feeder
18 Soon-to-be grad
19 Red shade
21 Floral garland
22 Trumpet
23 Upper limb
26 Society new-comer
28 Hot wine drink
31 Consider
33 Error indicator
35 Blue Devils' school
36 "Gitt!"
38 Terrible

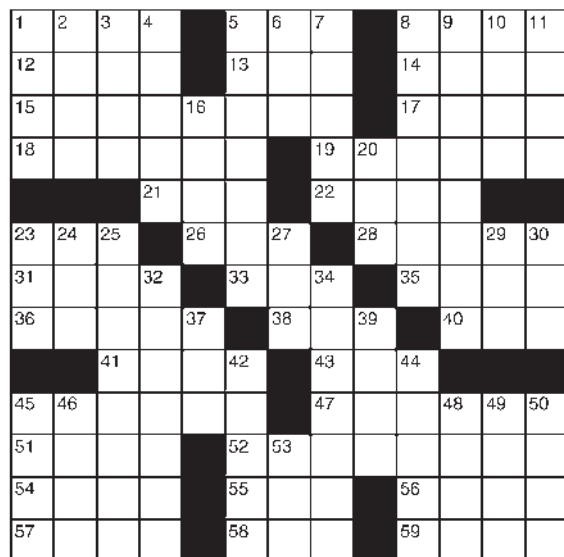
DOWN

1 Scottish head-gear
2 Sheltered
3 Forsaken
4 Beany's pal
5 Blogs, basically
6 B&B
7 Fix a tear
8 Incited
9 Egg-white concoction
10 Historic times
11 — E. Coyote
16 Tackled the weeds
20 A billion years
23 Billboards
24 Fun and games
25 Vieira or Baxter protector?
27 Chest
29 Guitar's kin
30 Yen fraction
32 Fauvism co-founder
34 Life, to Sally Bowles
37 Chap Tom-tom, for one
42 Slot machine symbol
44 Radio station sign
45 Davenport's place
46 Ear-related
48 VCR sup-planter
49 Mid-month date
50 Being (Lat.)
53 Ram's ma'am

Solution time: 21 mins.

D	R	I	P	S	K	I	A	F	A	R
D	O	O	R	H	A	N	U	R	G	E
A	U	T	O	B	A	H	N	T	E	E
Y	E	A	U	R	N	D	O	F	S	T
S	Y	R	U	P	A	U	T	O	M	A
P	O	U	T	U	M	P	C	U	T	E
A	U	T	O	P	S	Y	J	U	D	E
R	E	L	A	X	B	A	D	A	M	
E	X	I	T	A	U	T	O	N	O	M
N	A	N	O	P	R	E	O	D	O	R
M	O	M	E	N	D	R	O	S	A	

Yesterday's answer 2-26



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Corinne Bailey Rae, 35; Erykah Badu, 43; Mark Dacascos, 50; Michael Bolton, 61.

Happy Birthday: Personal goals should take top priority this year. Partnerships and being concerned with your community will help you gain support and expand your interests. Opportunities to influence others to pitch in and help will raise your profile. Working toward a power position will ensure that you have a say and can make a difference. Romance will enhance your personal life. Your numbers are 2, 9, 13, 24, 31, 34, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Stay on top of whatever you want to see happen. One slip and you will end up scrambling. Maneuver your way through every situation with caution, patience and persistence. You can win, but you will need to rely on intuition and impulse. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Do what needs to be done and keep moving in a positive direction. Don't be too concerned about complainers or those individuals looking for a fight. Do what you do and refuse to get trapped in gossip or trivial matters. Love is highlighted. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can make an impression by using finesse and offering diverse options that will separate you from any competition you face. Adaptability and speed will work to your advantage. If you make a promise, be sure to follow through. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Dream on. Let your imagination wander and explore the unknown. Gather all the in-

formation you've discovered and make a choice that will bring you closer to your goal, as well as supply you with greater stability. Romance is on the rise. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): An emotional issue can be resolved if you speak from the heart and look for solutions that will help everyone involved feel good about the outcome. Use ingenuity coupled with adaptability and you will come up with a plan that is well-received. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The more you do for others, the greater the rewards. Your show of loyalty and responsibility will help you go the distance when you want something in return. An important relationship will flourish if you reveal your intentions. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Refuse to get dragged into a situation that can only lead to trouble. Use your ingenuity and intuition to bring about positive change that will enhance your personal life. Focus on what you can do, not the impossible. *****

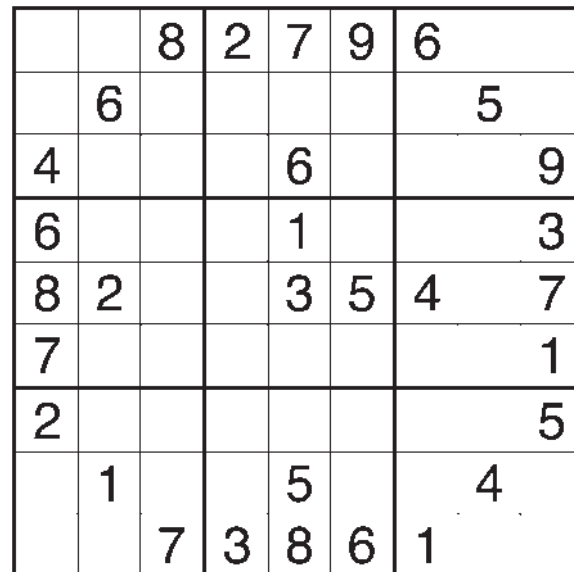
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Say little and do a lot. If you stick to your game plan and explore creative ideas, you will bypass an emotional issue that is likely to leave you perplexed. You are best to do whatever it takes to please you. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Look at the big picture and focus on what you can do to help others. It's what you do, not what you say, that makes a positive impact on your community or circle of friends. ***

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



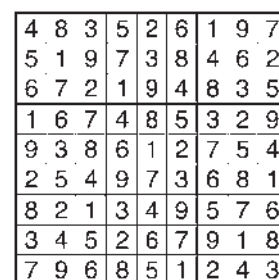
Difficulty Level ★★★

2/26

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level **

2/27

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Look at all sides of any issue you face. There will be both negatives and positives to consider before you make a decision. Put your professional options first to protect your personal stability and security. Let your head rule your heart. ***



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Gauge what you can and cannot do. Overdoing it can lead to setbacks. Consider the consequences before engaging in something that is taxing emotionally, physically or financially. Focus on what will bring you the most in return. ***



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Make a deal. Lay your cards on the table and share your ideas and concerns. The feedback you get will help you decipher whom you want to move forward with and the most lucrative and rewarding path to pursue. ****

Birthday Baby: You are a leader. You are aggressive, intense and perceptive.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](https://twitter.com/eugenialast).

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

'AMERICAN HUSTLE'

Solution: 6 letters



© 2014 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Join us on Facebook 2/26

Amy Adams, Bale, Bradley, Bribe, Carmine, Christian, Con Artists, Cooper, Danny, David, Deal, DeNiro, DiMaso, Edith, Greensley, Huston, Irving, Jennifer, Lady, Lawrence, Louis, Mayor, Meyer, Musane, Paco, Paul, Pete, Polito, Prosser, Renner, Richie, Rosalyn, Rosenfeld, Said, Sheikh, Singer, Stoddard, Stylish, Sydney, Tellegio, Thorsen, Victor, Warren, Wire
Yesterday's Answer: Instinct
Treasury 12, 13, 14 or 15 can be purchased online at wonderword.universalclick.com. (Contain 130 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

Computer Repair
only **\$10** Restore OS
Student Laptop Call for more info.
233-5641
Open: Monday-Saturday 9:00am - 7:00pm
www.calvatron.net

Warehouse for RENT
REM GUALO RAI
Warehouse #3 - Size: 4,000sq/ft
\$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable
REM LOWERBASE
Warehouse #2 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
\$0.45 per sq/ft. Negotiable
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL
235-6527/28 or 285-1317

BIG BROTHER AUTO SHOP
FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
(1) AUTO BODY REPAIR
Knowledge in mechanical jobs is a plus
Call 235-9494 or 789-9273

CHEAPCUT BARBECUE WANTED
1 COOK SUPERVISOR
Just email to:
merchantthompson@yahoo.com

Job Vacancy Announcement
EXCHANGE CLERK
• 1-2 years work experience in Foreign Currency Exchange
• At least High School graduate
Please send resume to:
CNMI Currency Exchange, Inc.
Fax no.: 234-5104

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
• **DISC JOCKEY / MC**
• **WAITRESS**
• **DANCERS**
Applications may be submitted to Joon Corp. dba King's Club at Garapan or Dionysos Bar & Grill or email: cross_road_44@hotmail.com. Tel. No. 233-0352 or 483-5382. No Experience needed. Will train. Bring Resume. Must be over 21 of age.

SUCCESS INTERNATIONAL CORP.
1 - H.E. MECHANIC/OPERATOR
Must have 5 yrs. experience
Knowledgeable in overhauling engine/transmission
Diagnose, service & repair various system of heavy equipment such as mechanical and motor driven equipment
Salary: \$5.55 - \$7.00/hr.
Apply in person or send resume to PMB 778 Box 10003 Lower Base • Tel# 322-1988/322-1558

Job Vacancy Announcement
Assistant PROJECT MANAGER
• 2-3 years work experience in Construction
• Engineering graduate
Please send resume to:
Triple "L" Construction, Inc.
Fax no.: 234-5104

Sherman Consulting, LLC
P.O. Box 520800, San Jose Village, Tinian MP 96952
Tel. (670) 433-2664; Fax (670) 433-4329
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Open Date: Feb 20, 2014
Close Date: Feb 27, 2014
Position: (1) Bookkeeper
Salary: \$2,333.00 per month
Qualification: College Graduate (5) yrs experience
Link: http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/43-3031.00
Fax resume to (670) 433-4329 on or before February 27, 2014

JVA for YANO Enterprises, Inc.
Yano Enterprises, Inc.:
Restaurant Waitress (4): Greeting Customers. Must be able to speak basic Japanese & efficient English & have a friendly & outgoing personality. Should be knowledgeable of the restaurant dishes, familiar with the entire menu the establishment offers. Can introduce & recommend daily specials as well as the restaurant's regular menu items. Continued services after the meal have been served and accept payments & other duties related.
Cook (5): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.
Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test.
Applicants of positions listed above are required to have a minimum of 3-5 year experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant MISA Building 1 in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.
Please no phone calls.

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN
We are currently seeking positive, friendly and outgoing individuals for the positions of:
GARDENER
Minimum three (3) years of work experience; Must have a working knowledge of landscaping chemistry. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.
CARPENTER
Minimum five (5) years work experience as a cabinet maker; Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays.
All applications are available at PIC's Security desk at the south end of the hotel. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Application deadline is 5pm on Tuesday, March 4, 2014.
PIC Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer

APARTMENTS FOR RENT
Realty Management Services
Fina Sisu Terraces
Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. **\$250/month.**
2-BR, 1-BTH. **\$350-\$550/month.** Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.
Ocean View Terraces
(Navy Hill)
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view. **\$600/month**
Sunset View Terraces
(Navy Hill)
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view. **\$550/month**
LNH Apartments
(Lower Navy Hill)
Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sq.ft. EPA Solar Water Heater. **\$350-\$450/month**
FEATURES:
■ **Fully Furnished**
■ **Back-up Generator**
■ **Air-conditioning in all rooms**
■ **FREE WiFi**
■ **Laundry Area**
■ **Nighttime Security**
■ **Ample Parking**
■ **24hr water**
Please visit our website at
www.saipan-properties.com
Call for an appointment
235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

TINIAN FUEL SERVICES, INC
PO Box 520800, Tinian, MP 96952
Tel. (670) 433-4427 • Fax. (670) 433-4329
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Open Date: Feb 20, 2014
Close Date: Feb 27, 2014
Position: (1) Supervisor
Salary: \$1,250 per month
Qualification: High school graduate or vocational, 5 years experience
Link: http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/41-1011.00
Position: (1) Office Manager
Salary: \$1,250 per month
Qualification: AA degree/college graduate, 5 years experience
Link: http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/43-1011.00
Position: (1) Mechanic
Salary: \$5.55 per hour
Qualification: High school graduate or vocational, 5 years experience
Link: http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/49-3052.00
Position: (1) Custodial Worker
Salary: \$5.55 per hour
Qualification: High school graduate or equivalent, 3 years experience
Link: http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/37-2011.00
Fax resume to (670) 433-4329 on or before February 27, 2014.

WHATZIT Solution: Roll up your sleeves

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS


Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

www.facebook.com/dingbatgames

TAGA Sports is now on issuu.com/tagasports!
Check out the latest issue and back issues of TAGA Sports, the CNMI's first and premier sports magazine, on issuu.com/tagasports!
Now you won't have to miss a copy of TAGA Sports. Visit issuu.com/tagasports to get your fix on all sports happenings in the CNMI!
To inquire about ad rates or to place an ad, call (670) 235-2440, 235-6397, 235-8747.

Mavs beat Knicks on Nowitzki's jumper



NEW YORK (AP)—Dirk Nowitzki's 19-foot jumper bounced up and then fell in as time expired, giving the Dallas Mavericks a 110-108 victory over the New York Knicks on Monday night.

The Mavericks blew an eight-point lead in the final 90 seconds, then pulled out their third straight victory when Nowitzki's jumper that seemed to have missed instead fell through.

Carmelo Anthony had 44 points and nine rebounds for the Knicks. He played strong defense on the Mavericks' final possession, but was left standing in disbelief long after the buzzer after Nowitzki's shot appeared to hit the backboard first, then the front rim, then bounced up before dropping.

Vince Carter scored 23 points and Monta Ellis had 22 for Dallas (35-23), which has won nine of 11 and is a season-best 12 games over .500.

Jose Calderon finished with 20 points, and Nowitzki had 15 for the Mavericks, who swept a three-game road trip and beat the Knicks for the 20th time in the last 25 meetings.

Tyson Chandler had 12 points and 12 rebounds against his former team, sparking the Knicks' comeback after they trailed 108-100 with 1:37 left. But New York (21-36) lost for the sixth time in seven games and fell a season-worst 15 games below .500.

The Knicks had blown big leads in their last two games, giving away a 14-point advantage at Orlando and a 17-point cushion at Atlanta, collapses that coach Mike Woodson called "mind-boggling."

This one had to hurt worse.

Carter made consecutive 3-pointers early in the fourth quarter to give Dallas a 90-85 lead, and the Mavericks seemed to have put it away when Calderon made a 3-pointer, and Brandon Wright followed with a basket to stretch the late lead to eight points.

But after Raymond Felton's basket, Chandler converted a 3-point play, then came up with a steal to start a break that ended with Anthony's 3-pointer that tied it at 108 with 50 seconds remaining.

The Knicks got the ball back after a Dallas miss but committed a shot-clock violation, giving Dallas the ball for Nowitzki's winner.

Amare Stoudemire scored nine points in his first start since the end of the 2011-12 season for the Knicks, who had just 10 available players after waiving Metta World Peace and Beno Udrih earlier Monday following contract buyouts.

The Mavericks shot 55 percent and led 31-21 after one quarter, but the Knicks came right back and made 14 of 19



Dallas Mavericks' Dirk Nowitzki (41) shoots the game-winning basket against New York Knicks' Carmelo Anthony (7) in the final seconds of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Feb. 24, 2014, in New York. Dallas won, 110-108.

shots (74 percent) while scoring 38 points in the second, when Anthony scored 17 points. New York erased a 14-point deficit to grab a two-point lead on Anthony's jumper with 11 seconds left, but Ellis made a 3-pointer as time expired to give Dallas a 60-59 edge.

Dallas had the lead back up to eight in the final minute of the third, but Anthony made three free throws, then nailed a 3-pointer with 0.6 seconds remaining as the Knicks trimmed it to 84-82.

Warriors 106, Pistons 96

In Auburn Hills, Stephen Curry didn't shoot all that well—and Golden State won anyway.

The Warriors figure that's a good sign at the start of a lengthy road trip.

"It's not necessarily going to be flash and fun every night," Golden State's Jermaine O'Neal said. "If we're going to have a

chance to really compete for a championship, these are the types of games you're going to have to win in the playoffs. We have a fairly young team and these games like this build the character and the image of the team."

Curry had 19 points, nine assists and eight rebounds, and the Warriors clamped down on the Detroit Pistons in the second half of a 104-96 victory Monday night. Klay Thompson scored 19 points for Golden State, which has won four in a row. The Pistons have lost five of seven since firing Maurice Cheeks and replacing him with interim coach John Loyer.

Curry went 6 of 15 from the field and was only 3 of 9 from 3-point range, but he repeatedly found teammates for open shots on the perimeter.

"I tried to press a little in the third quarter," Curry said. "It

didn't work out my way, so I tried to stay positive. Other guys were making plays, so it was kind of a team effort."

Jazz 110, Celtics

In Salt Lake City, Alec Burks scored 21 points, Derrick Fa-

vors had 20 in his return from a hip injury and the Utah Jazz beat the Boston Celtics 110-98 on Monday night.

Marvin Williams added 19 points on 8-for-10 shooting to help the Jazz break a three-game losing streak and end a six-game skid to the Celtics.

Favors, who missed the previous three games with a sprain he re-aggravated in the opening moments against Philadelphia on Feb. 12, established himself early with four baskets and bolstered Utah's leaky defense in the middle.

Jeff Green and Kelly Olynyk each had 21 points for Boston, which dropped all four games on its road trip and extended its losing streak to five games.

The Jazz shot 55 percent and led by as many 18 points as six players scored in double figures and featured quick ball movement against the weary Celtics.

The Jazz are 0-9 when Favors is out with injury and the center's presence forced the Celtics outside the lane. Favors had three blocked shots and Jeremy Evans had a career-high four but the Celtics made 20 of 21 free throws to stay in the game.

Despite a strong game from Rajon Rondo, who had 18 points and 10 assists, the Celtics dropped to 4-22 against teams from the Western Conference and 0-13 on the road.

Clippers 123, Pelicans 110

In New Orleans, Jamal Crawford hit seven 3s on his way to 24 points, and the Los Angeles Clippers beat the New Orleans Pelicans 123-110 on Monday night.

Crawford picked up where he left off in Oklahoma City a day earlier, when he hit five 3-pointers and scored 36 points in the Clippers' victory over the Thunder. He even converted a four-point play when he hit a 3 while being fouled by Eric Gordon.

Chris Paul had 19 points and 13 assists in his latest return to New Orleans, while Blake Griffin added 22 points. All five Clippers starters and two reserves scored in double figures.

DeAndre Jordan had 14 points to go along with 16 re-

bounds, while Matt Barnes, Darren Collison and Hedo Turkoglu each scored 12.

Anthony Davis had 26 points and 11 rebounds for New Orleans. Alexis Ajinca set career highs with 19 points and 12 rebounds.

Los Angeles hit 16 3s in all on 28 attempts (57.1 percent). New Orleans made only 7 of 18 (38.9 percent) from long range.

Anthony Morrow scored 13 points and Al-Farouq Aminu 12 for New Orleans, which has lost four straight. Gordon and Austin Rivers each scored 10.

The Clippers were in control from the outset against a Pelicans team that has been struggling all season defensively. Los Angeles opened a nine-point lead in the first quarter on Jordan's alley-oop dunk of Hedo Turkoglu's lob. The lead grew to 15 in the second quarter, when Griffin's dunk, set up by a feed from Paul, made it 54-39.

Bucks 130, Sixers 110

In Philadelphia, O.J. Mayo made seven 3-pointers and scored 25 points, Ersan Ilyasova added 20, and the Milwaukee Bucks placed seven players in double figures in a 130-110 rout of the Philadelphia 76ers, who lost their 11th straight game on Monday night.

Ramon Sessions had 16 points, Khris Middleton and Brandon Knight scored 15 each, and Giannis Antetokounmpo posted 13 for the Bucks (11-45), who own the NBA's worst record. John Henson chipped in 12 points for the Bucks, who had their highest scoring game of the season.

Philadelphia (15-42), which owns the league's second worst record, has lost 21 of 24 and 10 straight at home. It is the club's longest skid since a 12-game losing streak during the 1996-97 season.

Thaddeus Young led the 76ers with 28 points, Michael Carter-Williams added 20, Tony Wroten had 19, and James Anderson scored 13.

The Bucks had lost two in a row, 21 of 24, and 10 straight on the road. Their last away victory was against the Los Angeles Lakers on Dec. 31, 2013.

Wizards' Nene to miss six weeks with knee sprain

WASHINGTON (AP)—Wizards forward Nene will be sidelined for approximately six weeks with a sprained MCL in his left knee, costing the team its most reliable barometer for success while it makes a push for its first playoff berth since 2008.

Nene underwent an MRI on Monday after he was injured in the third quarter of Sunday night's 96-83 win at Cleveland.

A six-week absence would sideline the Brazilian veteran until the final few games of the regular season. The Wizards

have won three straight to get to 28-28, making them fifth in the weak Eastern Conference.

The oft-injured Nene was acquired in a trade in March 2012, and the Wizards are a different team when he's healthy. They are 60-61 with him and 8-34 without him, including 1-6 this season when he was dealing with a nagging right Achilles tendon.

Nene is averaging 14.2 points, 5.8 rebounds and 3.0 assists in 30.1 minutes. He had one of his best games of the season Saturday, when he

matched his career high with 30 points, including the game-winning dunk with less than a second remaining in a victory over New Orleans.

The Wizards are expected to fill Nene's void with role players. Trevor Booker started in Nene's place earlier this season, and Kevin Seraphin and Al Harrington filled in Sunday after Nene was hurt. Harrington recently returned from a three-month layoff following surgery on his right knee.

The Wizards host the Orlando Magic on Tuesday.

Mayweather picks Maidana for May 3 fight



Undeclared welterweight world champion Floyd Mayweather, left, announced during his 37th birthday that he will fight Marcos Maidana on May 3.

Undeclared welterweight world champion Floyd Mayweather celebrated his 37th birthday by announcing he will put his 45-0 record on the line on May 3 against Marcos Maidana.

Monday's move comes after weeks of speculation as to whether Mayweather would fill his May fight date with Argentina's Maidana or England's Amir Khan.

The brash American even ran an internet poll in which fans voted for the Khan match-up, but World Boxing Council welterweight champion Mayweather instead will take on World Boxing Association champ Maidana in a unification bout.

"Marcos Maidana's last performance immediately

brought him to my attention," Mayweather said of Maidana's comprehensive defeat of the previously unbeaten Adrien Broner on December 14.

The 30-year-old Maidana dominated Broner from the opening bell and registered two knockdowns against the three-time world champion.

"He is an extremely skilled fighter who brings knockout danger to the ring," Mayweather said. "I think this is a great fight for me and he deserves the opportunity to see if he can do what 45 others have tried to do before him - beat me."

At 45-0 with 26 knockouts, Mayweather is approaching the 46-0 career mark of retired Welsh star Joe Calzaghe and

the iconic 49-0 mark of heavyweight legend Rocky Marciano.

Mayweather beat Saul "Canelo" Alvarez last September in his most recent bout for the WBA and World Boxing Council light middleweight titles. The May 3 bout will be the third in his lucrative six-fight deal with Showtime.

"I am extremely happy to be facing Floyd Mayweather because it will give me the opportunity to show the world that I am the best welterweight in the division," Maidana said. "I just handed a great defensive fighter his first loss and I plan to do the same to Mayweather."

But Khan fans are sure to be riled. Mayweather set in motion a flurry of online polls fol-

lowing a message posted to his Twitter and Instagram accounts earlier this month asking fans to voice their opinion on his next opponent.

At least one of the online polls showed Khan had swept past Maidana to get the nod from fans 20,105 votes to 15,474.

However, the statement announcing the bout on Monday said that overall opinion expressed on social media backed a Mayweather-Maidana clash.

"Through the accumulation of more than 100,000 votes on the various online polls, more than 100,000 comments on Mayweather's Facebook and Instagram pages, as well as nonstop fan Tweets, Mayweather saw an overwhelming majority favor Maidana," the

promotional statement said.

Khan, 28-3 with 19 knockouts, pulled out of a planned December world title fight for the chance to take the ring with Mayweather and has not fought since last April.

The 27-year-old Englishman last week tweeted his frustration at the delays and said he will meet with promoter Golden Boy this week to decide what to do next as his patience wore thin. *(ESPN)*

Union rep says Dolphins fallout is overblown



DAVIE, Fla. (AP) — The players' union representative from the Miami Dolphins says the fallout from their bullying scandal is overblown because every NFL team has a similar locker-room culture.

Long snapper John Denney, a nine-year veteran, said Monday he hadn't read the investigative report on the Dolphins case. But any harassment among players is nothing new, he said.

"It's overblown, because this has been my experience with the league my entire career from Day One," Denney said in a telephone interview. "If something needed to be done, it needed to be done a long time ago. It has never escalated. I never saw conditions worsen. I guess we're late in getting to the issue."

"I would be comfortable in saying if you put an investigation on any of the 32 teams in the NFL, you're going to come out with the exact same results."

In a report released Feb. 14, investigators found guard Richie Incognito and two other offensive linemen engaged in persistent harassment directed at tackle Jonathan Martin, another offensive lineman and an assistant trainer.

Denney, at 35 the Dolphins' oldest player, said behavior among players was no different last year than when his NFL career began in 2005. Bullying of rookies was common then, too, he said.

"When I came into the league, I assumed I was going to accept it or find a different line of work," Denney said. "I don't agree with the lifestyles of some of guys on the team, but if I have an issue, I can address it with individual people. If I felt uncomfortable with a situation, I would address it or find something else to do."

Denney made his comments following a celebrity golf tournament organized by former Dolphins star Jason Taylor that included several current Miami players.

Quarterback Ryan Tannehill said he's confident the necessary changes will be made to ensure a healthy locker-room environment. Tannehill made his first public comments regarding the 144-page report.

"I saw a few pages of it," Tannehill said. "I got over-

whelmed by 140-and-whatever pages and skipped it. I'm just glad it's out. The evaluations and summaries have been made, the points have been taken and now we can move forward. There's no more being anxious about it coming out. We've had the consequences and repercussions, and now we can put it in the past and move forward."

The Dolphins fired offensive line coach Jim Turner and longtime head athletic trainer Kevin O'Neill for their roles in the scandal, and coach Joe Philbin pledged to improve the workplace culture.

NFL punishment of players who engaged in harassment may be forthcoming in the form of fines, suspensions or both. Tannehill could find him playing behind an entirely new line to start the 2014 season.

Even so, he considers fallout from the scandal in the past.

"I think it's behind us at this point," he said. "Obviously we'll try to learn from it and correct things coach Philbin and the coaching staff feel need to be changed. We want to have a healthy locker room."

Tannehill, a starter since the first game of his rookie season in 2012, was a member of the team's leadership council last season. But at 25, he said he's still growing into the role of a leader.

"You definitely get more comfortable speaking up at certain times," he said. "You have the respect. That's the big thing - having the other guys' respect in the locker room. You can't come in with no respect and try to own the place. At this point hopefully I have some respect in the locker room, and now I can assert myself."

Taylor is part of an advisory group formed last fall by team owner Stephen Ross that also includes Tony Dungy, Don Shula, Dan Marino and Curtis Martin. The group, which has yet to meet, will review organizational conduct policies and make recommendations on areas for improvement.

"We have all seen the report," Taylor said. "We know what it says. In the coming days and weeks we will have a discussion about it, and that discussion will stay between me, Mr. Ross and the other members of the committee."

Yanks, Gardner reach deal adding \$52M from 2015-18



TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Outfielder Brett Gardner

and the New York Yankees have agreed to a contract that adds \$52 million in guaranteed money from 2015-18.

The deal announced Sunday includes a team option for 2019 that if exercised would make the new money \$62.5 million over five seasons.

"It shows the level of confidence, belief and trust, and the type of player and person he is," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said. "We're excited to know that he's going to be a part of this team going forward. We're a better team with Gady on it, that's the bottom line. This is a good day for him, and we believe it makes

the future for us better."

Gardner agreed last month to a \$5.6 million, one-year contract and would have been eligible for free agency after the 2014 season. The new four-year contract includes a \$2 million signing bonus payable next Jan. 15 and salaries of \$12 million in 2015, \$13 million in 2016, \$12 million in 2017 and \$11 million in 2018. The Yankees have a \$12.5 million option for 2019 with a \$2 million buyout.

Gardner would receive an additional \$1 million payment if he's traded, a provision he can earn only once.

"Free agency is something that, it kind of intrigued me, but it also kind of scared me," Gardner said. "I've never been anywhere else. I love it here. I love putting on the pin-

stripes everyday."

Cashman said talks about the contract started at the winter meetings in December.

The Yankees are moving Gardner to left field this year after signing free agent center fielder Jacoby Ellsbury to a \$153 million, seven-year contract in December.

Gardner did have questions in his mind about his Yankees' future after the Ellsbury acquisition.

"When they signed Jacoby, your name gets thrown out in the trade rumors and all that," Gardner said. "It's kind of annoying, really. I didn't want to get traded. I don't want to go anywhere else, and I let them know that."

The 30-year-old Gardner hit .273 last year with eight

home runs, 52 RBIs and 24 stolen bases.

"I like what he brings," Cashman said. "The speed dynamic, the defense, and I think the offense is there as well."

Also, the Yankees agreed to a minor league contract with injured closer Andrew Bailey, who was with Boston last year and is coming back from right shoulder surgery last July.

Cashman said the right-hander might be able to join the team in August or September.

"When he is healthy, he's an exceptional reliever," Cashman said. "He's coming off of a shoulder surgery, so we're taking a flier. A low risk. If we can get a reward out of it, great. If not, it's one of those nothing ventured, nothing gained."

Saipan Marathon scheduled for April 19



The 9th Saipan Marathon is scheduled for April 19.

The annual event will include races in half marathon, 10K, and 50K courses, as well.

Early registration for the 50K and marathon is \$55 for U.S. and CNMI participants, and \$45 for half-marathon and 10K participants. Early registration must be made by March 7. An additional late fee of \$10 will apply to registrations submitted after March 7. The last day to register for the event is on March 14, at 5pm. Once registered, runners will gain entry to the awards banquet and get a finishers t-shirt and a certificate of completion.

The race will start at the American Memorial Park at 4:30am for the 50K and the marathon, at 5:45am for the half marathon, and at 6am for



A young runner leads four Japanese female runners during last year's Saipan Marathon.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

the 10K. This year's event will implement a cut-off time for both the full marathon and 50K. The cut-off time will be 9am at the halfway point.

All competitors are required to pick up their race packets on April 18, at 4pm.

Last year's Saipan Marathon draws over 700 participants. Saipan's Mamiko Oshima-Berger (4:11:02) and China's Shingo Bamba (3:55:36) ruled the women's and men's 50K races last year. Other top finishers were 10's Yonekura Takao (45:23) and Noriko Jim (44:55) and half marathon's Terra Allen (1:48:00) and Charlie Epperson (1:21:09) and marathon's

Entry forms for this year's event are available at the MVA office located on Beach Road in San Jose or on the MVA official website Event Calendar at www.mymarianas.com. For more information contact Ed Diaz at the MVA at 664-3210 or through email at ediaz@mymarianas.com. (MVA)

MANTA

From Page 28

Kim , upping the team's lead to 8, 1:32 left on the clock.

Southern was never threatened after that, as Mt. Carmel missed its last four shots, while the former ran down the time.

Javier was one of the four Southern players to finish in twin digits with his 11 points. Shooter Harley Warren led

the Rays with his 15 markers, which were all made from downtown, while Emerson Feria and James Kintaro added 14 and 10, respectively.

William Camacho led all scorers with his 19, while Kwon chipped in 11. Jared Sablan also had double figures for the Knights, but he dropped all his 10 points in the first quarter and failed to complete the game as he headed to a baseball match.

In the junior varsity game,

Southern got even with Saipan International School after whipping the Geckos in their second outing, 51-33.

A third-quarter push allowed the Rays to avenge their 39-44 loss to SIS in the first round. Ahead by only three at halftime, 22-19, Southern more than doubled up the Geckos in the third period with a 17-6 scoring to take a 39-25 advantage at the end of that canto. Art Borromeo unloaded two triples, while

Ryan Esmundo also scored 6 markers to lift the Rays to a double-digit margin, entering the final frame.

Southern went on to keep its safe distance in the fourth quarter, as SIS just traded baskets with the Rays and was still outscored, 12-8.

JUNIOR VARSITY

SSHS 51 – Esmundo 16, Espinosa 11, Anderson 6, Borromeo 6, Bondoc 4, Deleon Guerrero 4, Cruz 2, Igrobay 2.

SIS 33 – Johnson 11, C. Cepeda 9, A. Cepeda 6, H. Kim 3, Ramsey 2, Y. Kim 1.

Scoring by quarters: 10-8, 22-19, 39-25, 51-33.

VARSITY

SSHS 62 – Warren 15, Feria 14, Javier 11, Kintaro 10, Camacho 8, Reyes 2.

MCS 54 – Camacho 19, Kwon 11, Sablan 10, Kim 6, Amog 4, Del Rosario 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-12, 36-20, 52-34, 62-54.

TSUNAMI

From Page 28

Yanai, on the other hand, bested five other swimmers in the 50m butterfly after registering a PBT of 29.21 seconds. He was the lone swimmer in the 13 to 14 age group event to complete the race under 30 seconds, as runner-up and brother Hiroto recorded 33.99 seconds, while Tsunami Guam's Kai Aricayos tallied 34.64 seconds.

Besides the 50m butterfly swim, the virtual meet also featured 50m races in freestyle,

backstroke, and breaststroke.

In the U8 50m freestyle, Tsunami Saipan and Tsunami Guam split top honors with the former's Anthony Deleon Guerrero topping the boys field with his 42.69 seconds and Risa Hendrix ruling the girls with her 42.64 seconds.

In the 9 to 10 division, Ryuto Yanai (31.28 seconds) edged younger brother Kenshiro (36.39 seconds), while Tsunami Saipan also had a 1-2 finish in the girls race with Sophia Gauran (35.30 seconds) finishing ahead of Aika Watanabe (40.04 seconds).

Tsunami Guam bounced back in the boys 11 to 12 age group

with Caleb White (32.64 seconds) beating teammate Jimi Hedrix (33.03). In the girls division, Tsunami Saipan's Miku Tammy (31.28 seconds) defeated Guam's Leilani Koiwa (31.70 seconds) and Samantha Hon (32.23 seconds).

In the 13 to 14 division, Tsunami Saipan swept first place with Kaito Yanai ruling the boys division with his 28.37 seconds and Angel De Jesus recording a field-best time of 30.98 seconds. Tsunami Guam countered in the over 15 age group with Stephen Jagger and Misaki Iijima timing in at 24.62 seconds and 28.60

seconds, respectively.

In the 50m backstroke, the top finishers were U8's Hans Xu (48.94 seconds) and Nanaka Watanabe (53.62); 9 to 10's Ryuto Yanai (41.18 seconds) and Sophia Gauran (44.89); 11 to 12's Hendrix (36.64) and Tammy (36.11); 13 to 14's Kaito Yanai (33.21) and Angel Tan (35.10), and over 15's Jagger (29.53) and Iijima (30.48).

In the over 15 50m breaststroke, Kensuke Kimura placed ahead of Jagger after recording 31.74 seconds against the 34.34 seconds of the latter. In the girls division, Iijima won anew with

her 38.48 seconds. Other first place finishers in the event were 13 to 14's Tan (39.06 seconds) and Kaito Yanai (34.08); 11 to 12's Hon (43.09) and Ji Hedrix (45.10); 9 to 10's Gauran (50.18) and Ryuto Yanai (45.37); and U8's Risa Hendrix (53.66) and Anthony Deleon Guerrero (1:02.54).

In the five events set for the virtual meet, Hiro Kimura said Tsunami Saipan swimmers marked 85 percent in PBT.

"It is so amazing to see our swimmers gain several personal best times," the Tsunami Saipan coach said.

ENFORCERS

From Page 28

perfect record (7-0) and widen their lead in the six-team field. The Jets dropped to a 3-4 record for third place, pending results of the two other Junior League matches last weekend. The Comets (3-3) and Falcons (2-4) played in the second game, while the defending champions Red Sox (1-5) and Fielders (2-4) collided in the third and final match.

Starting pitcher Kier Agda allowed only two hits before reaching his limit and with the rest of the Enforcers' defense in place, the Jets made it to third

only once. Agda pitched 6.3 innings and had nine strikeouts. He gave up a single to Noel Cabrera in the second inning, allowing second batter Austin Benavente to move to second and third, but the Enforcers ace eventually tagged out the latter at home.

Agda continued his pitching chores in the next five innings and stranded seven more runners, as no Jets runner made it past second base in that stretch. The Enforcers starting pitcher also managed to record at least one strikeout in each of the last five innings he pitched. He got his last strikeout at the bottom of the seventh, leaving Cabrera stuck on second and Leo Sa-

lalila on first. Ethan Babauta came in for Agda and had a brief stint on the mound, as the Jets were called for their third out in the ensuing play.

On offense, Agda went 2-for-4 at bat and scored one run, one RBI, and a sacrifice fly. He gave the Enforcers their second run in the first inning when his single drove Virgil Secharmidal home, while the first run was courtesy of the latter's RBI single.

The Enforcers failed to make it to the board in the next two innings, but close out strong, drilling at least two runs each in the last four. Jordan Kosam and Ton Muna had RBI singles and the seven

other runs came off the Jets throwing, fielding, and pitching errors.

Meanwhile, in the Big League game last week, the Padres coasted past the Lions, 14-1.

The Padres bagged the win, their second in three games, after only four and a half innings. The Lions are still winless after three games.

Padres shorts stop A. J. Lizama went 3-for-4 at bat and contributed two runs and three RBIs, while the defending champions notched three more earned runs. The Lions scored their lone run at the top of the fifth with leadoff batter Cedric Ada reaching home off an Ian

Iriarte sacrifice out.

The Padres set up the route after gaining momentum in the second inning. The defending champions tallied six runs at the bottom of the second to stretch a slim 1-0 lead to a promising 7-0 advantage. Lizama, T.J. Sablan, and Daniel Smith hit one RBI single each in that inning, while the three other runs were courtesy off the Lions' miscues. The Padres turned the Lions' lapses into four more runs in the third inning and also got two unearned runs in the fourth.

Winning pitcher Steven Cabrera had a no-relief job for the Padres, striking out five and giving up only four hits.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	31	25	.554	—
Brooklyn	26	28	.481	4
New York	21	36	.368	10½
Boston	19	39	.328	13
Philadelphia	15	42	.263	16½
Southeast Division				
Miami	40	14	.741	—
Washington	28	28	.500	13
Charlotte	27	30	.474	14½
Atlanta	26	29	.473	14½
Orlando	17	41	.293	25
Central Division				
Indiana	42	13	.764	—
Chicago	29	26	.527	13
Detroit	23	34	.404	20
Cleveland	22	35	.386	21
Milwaukee	11	45	.196	31½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
San Antonio	40	16	.714	—
Houston	38	18	.679	2
Dallas	35	23	.603	6
Memphis	31	24	.564	8½
New Orleans	23	33	.411	17
Northwest Division				
Oklahoma City	43	14	.754	—
Portland	38	18	.679	4½
Minnesota	27	29	.482	15½
Denver	25	30	.455	17
Utah	20	36	.357	22½
Pacific Division				
L.A. Clippers	39	20	.661	—
Golden State	35	22	.614	3
Phoenix	33	22	.600	4
Sacramento	20	36	.357	17½
L.A. Lakers	19	37	.339	18½
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				

MISO Girls Volleyball League First Round

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO



A Saipan International School JV team player sets up her teammate near the net during their game against Kagman High School in the 2013-2014 MISO Girls Volleyball League at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



Grace Christian Academy's Zena Demapan goes up for a spike against a Saipan International School player.



A Kagman High School player makes a return to Saipan International School.



A Grace Christian Academy player makes an overhand serve.



Saipan International School player taps the ball.



Saipan International School's Jeane Bracken serves, while her teammates get ready for the next play.



A Mount Carmel School player goes for an underhand serve.



A Marianas High School player receives a shot from Saipan International School.



A Marianas High School player bends down to receive a serve from Saipan International School.



**Mavs beat Knicks
on Nowitzki's
jumper**
PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports

**Mayweather picks
Maidana for May 3
fight**
PAGE 25



28 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2014

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Manta Rays thwart Knights



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Southern High School's Jun Javier goes up for a one-hander against Mount Carmel School's Min Su Kim, right, and Soon Hyung Kwon, partly hidden, during the fourth quarter of their game in the MISO varsity caging last Monday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Southern High School withstood Mount Carmel School's fourth-quarter rally to earn a 62-54 victory in the varsity game in the 2013-2014 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League last Monday night at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Jun Javier canned a momentum-halting basket in the paint under the two-minute mark of match to give the Manta Rays their fifth win in eight games, while handing the Knights their eighth loss in as many matches.



The victory was also the second for Southern against the same team, as the former eked out a 72-66 triumph in the first round.

Javier's basket, a one-hander banked shot off a drop pass from Daniel Cama-

cho, came after the Knights moved within six, 54-60, 2:16 left in the match. Mount Carmel rallied from a 15-point deficit, 60-45, with Soon Hyung Kwon starting the recovery with a layup, William Camacho drilling three straight baskets, and Enrico Del Rosario capping the 9-0 surge with his two free throws.

Del Rosario had a chance to inch Mt. Carmel closer after Southern muffed another offensive set on the other end, but the Knights forward faltered a point-blanked shot. The Manta Rays then regained possession with Daniel Camacho cutting to the lane and squaring off for a short jumper, but decided an extra pass at the last minute to Javier under the basket. The Rays burly centered drilled the crucial shot against Knights frontliners Kwon and Min Su

See MANTA on Page 26

Tsunami Saipan swimmers mark PBTs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three Tsunami Saipan swimmers made notable performances in this month's virtual meet.

Nanaka Watanabe led the list, as she clocked in at 1:50.72 in the 100m breaststroke event of the fourth virtual meet between Tsunami Saipan and Tsunami Guam. According to Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura, Watanabe's time is a personal best mark and even better than the current CNMI record in the 8-and-under age



group. Saipan Swim Club's Amanda Johnson holds the Commonwealth's age group mark in the 100m breaststroke swim with her 2:00.13 logged on March 31, 2000. Watanabe's time can't be considered a record, as she raced in an unofficial meet and event was not sanctioned by the Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation.

"This meet was unofficial, so her time is not certified. However, I am positive she will break CNMI records in the next official meet," Kimura said.

Also earning a PBT in the 100m breaststroke was Hiro's son Kensuke, while Kaito Yanai had the same feat in the 50m butterfly event at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool. Both recorded times faster than the CNMI age group marks.

Kensuke submitted 1:12.03 in the 100m breaststroke and was the fastest among eight participants. He defeated six Tsunami Guam swimmers, including Soujyu Usui (1:15.92). Takumi Sugie was the other Tsunami Saipan swimmer in the event and clocked in at 1:25.66.

See TSUNAMI on Page 26



Kaito Yanai swims in the 50m breaststroke event during last Saturday's virtual meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Enforcers, Padres ease their way to victory



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The JPO Enforcers first baseman beats a Falcons runner during their game in the Junior League early this month at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield. The Enforcers won, 9-0, and are still undefeated in the division, following an 11-0 rout of the Jets last Sunday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Enforcers and Padres dominated separate foes in their respective divisions in the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last week at the Francisco



"Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Enforcers shut down the Jets, 11-0, in the Junior League game last Sunday to keep their

See ENFORCERS on Page 26